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THE TIMES

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45p



Stampede: a panic-stricken crowd of ANC demonstrators fleeing as Ciskei troops opened fire on them at an anti-government rally in the homeland's capital, Bisho, yesterday

Troops kill 28 at ANC protest rally

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN BISHO, CISKEI

AT LEAST 28 people died and nearly 200 were injured when Ciskei armed forces opened fire yesterday on a march of 70,000 ANC-led demonstrators seeking to occupy Bisho, the capital of the black independent homeland.

The troops fired on marchers who allegedly charged them outside the Bisho stadium, where the ANC had a judge's permission to stage a rally against Brigadier Oupa Gqozo, Ciskei's military ruler. The protesters were demanding the removal of Brigadier Gqozo, who seized power two years ago, and the return of Ciskei to South Africa.

A group of marchers streaked away from the main body of the march into the stadium and out the other side, the incident which appeared to start the firing. Ciskei troops began shoot-

ing in all directions, some towards the stadium, some towards the South African border, though whether in panic or under orders was unclear.

For five minutes the troops, in helmets and full battle dress, kept up a fusillade, while marchers and reporters threw themselves face down on the tarmac of the road or the dry earth of the veld.

I saw a journalist, close to a roll of barbed wire which marked the border, hit by a ricocheting shrapnel fragment, but he was only slightly hurt.

As the firing subsided, the cries of the wounded were heard, and wailing began among those marchers whose friends and colleagues lay bleeding. Four young men, whose bodies lay in the stadium, had been shot in the back as they had run from the guns. Another six lay in the road close to the barbed wire. Two more corpses were

pulled in from the veld with dry grass clogging their wounds.

The stadium had been the target of a similar march a month ago, when a previous confrontation had been defused by the skilled intervention of negotiators from the peace secretariat and a United Nations monitor.

"We are blaming De Klerk for this and we do it without hesitation," said Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the ANC. He said that the South African president had been warned to keep Brigadier Gqozo under control. "We believe it was within his power to do so. Ciskei is a creation of the apartheid regime and they are responsible for the atrocities committed in his name," Mr Ramaphosa said.

Brigadier Marius Oelshig, the Ciskei defence chief, said Ciskei troops had returned fire when attacked with grenades and handguns. South

Africa said it was sending troops to Ciskei to guard important installations from "retaliatory attacks".

The Ciskei violence deals a further serious blow to efforts to revive stalled negotiations on multiracial government. "The killing of 28 people will surely have a bearing on the negotiation process. We cannot continue as though flies have died," Mr Ramaphosa said.

He added however that if the de Klerk government took action to remove Brigadier Gqozo "that will make the negotiation process easier". ANC officials described the killings as "a real atrocity". "Gqozo intended to kill people," said Mr Ramaphosa.

Ronnie Kasrils, the ebullient hardline leader of the South African Communist Party, who was among the first in the stadium before the shooting began, said afterwards: "This has precipitated a crisis in the South African government. This talk of peace is not going down with our people while war is being waged on them all over South Africa. There will be a very powerful reaction throughout South Africa to this bloodshed."

Mr Kasrils announced just before the firing started: "It's a cinch. We are just going to march into the CBD," (the central business district of the little capital, which the troops were protecting). A few minutes later the marchers reached the barbed wire.

Afterwards the Ciskei authorities claimed that they had come under fire from the demonstrators and were compelled to open fire. A number of correspondents said that some marchers had carried guns, and at least one soldier was said by a national peace accord observer to have been shot. But John Hall, the national peace committee chairman, said: "I must admit, I do not find these words offensive."

He added: "Banning these words

Major urges Euro-sceptics to bury doubts

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major yesterday called on Tory Euro-sceptics to bury their doubts and back the Maastricht treaty. He reiterated his view that it represented the best way forward for Britain and Europe and argued that it was a treaty which began the fightback against Brussels centralism.

The train could be derailed, he told those Conservatives arguing for the scrapping of Maastricht and a "fresh start". He derided as "phantoms" the fears raised by Baroness Thatcher and others of a loss of national identity if Maastricht went ahead, although he called on his fellow leaders in Europe to address those fears.

Mr Major said: "The reality is that no nation's identity will ever be lost. Whatever happens in the Community, the French will be no less French, the Germans no less German, the Danes no less Danish and — I promise you — the British no less British."

But Tory divisions were once again emphasised as critics of the treaty called for a referendum in Britain while one, Richard Shepherd, the MP for Aldridge Brownhills, accused Mr Major of running away from debate and of a "major deceit". Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said that Mr Major had "at last nailed his colours to the European mast" and urged him to face down the critics in his own party.

Aides said that Mr Major had toiled longer and harder on this address than on almost any in his career. What he produced was a careful balancing act, arguing that Maastricht was the best way forward, but not the only one, and emphasising that it could only happen if it were agreed by all 12 EC nations, including Denmark as well as France.

Mr Major, who yesterday met Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, to hear of Denmark's plans

for a white paper setting out government options in advance of a possible second referendum next year, said: "There can be no question of leaving one member behind. Britain would not be party to such an agreement."

Mr Major told a London conference on the future of Europe: "What we won at Maastricht is worth preserving. The easiest way to preserve it is through ratification of the treaty." He signalled readiness to press ahead, given a yes in the French referendum, with what he acknowledged would be a "bruising passage" through Parliament for the ratification Bill.

But at the same time he argued that the founding

Continued on page 14, col 4
Major's speech, page 8
Leading article and letters, page 11

Record breaker Gower left out

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAVID Gower was the surprising and disappointed omission when the England cricket party to tour India was announced at Lord's yesterday. Gower, 35, became the leading English run-maker in Test history when he was recalled to the team against Pakistan this summer.

Gower's fate was in marked contrast to that of another former England captain, Mike Gatting. Gatting was one of three players — the bowlers, John Emburey and Paul Jarvis being the others — to be included after the lifting of international bans imposed on them for touring South Africa.

Gower, who was told the news in a telephone call from the England captain, Graham Gooch, could not disguise his feelings at being left out of the 16-man party. "I hoped the team would have been selected on quality and experience but it seems those qualities are not important any more," he said.

"To say I'm disappointed is an understatement. I thought the longer I heard nothing the better it would be for me. Graham came up with the news later than I had expected — but I really thought I had done enough."

In his book on captaincy published this spring, Gooch criticised Gower's attitude during England's unsuccessful tour of Australia last year and said he was more comfortable leading the team when Gower was not in it.

But the case for Gower's inclusion seemed clear after his recall to the England team for the final three Tests.

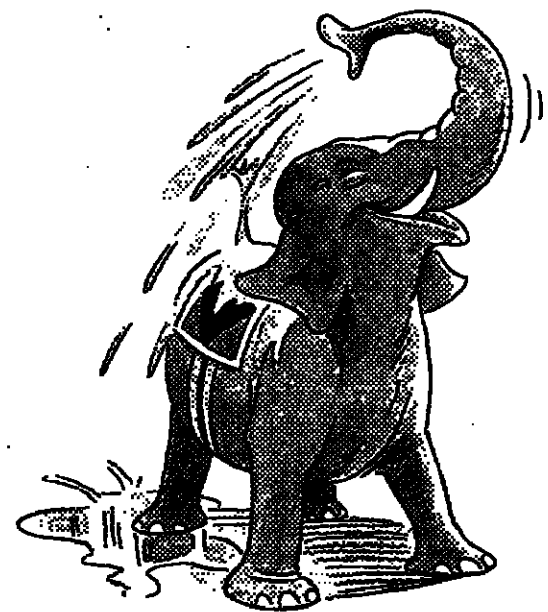
Continued on page 14, col 2

Full details, page 30

Poor chap's out before he could even get to the crease...



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No blacklegs please, we're politically correct

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

IF YOU can't call someone who goes into work past a picket line a blackleg, what can you call him — or her? Is it acceptable to call a strikebreaker a scab? Is colourful and expressive language to be avoided, merely because it may appear discriminatory or offensive to someone, somewhere?

Such is the unspoken subtext to the debates of the Trades Union Congress, meeting in Blackpool this week. TUC officials say the battle to impose politically correct language on delegates to the TUC began some four years ago, after a resolution at the TUC women's conference expressed concern at the use of "discriminatory" language.

The movement's leaders, ever mindful of the need to increase repre-

sentation of women and ethnic minority trade unionists at congress, decided to publish advice to delegates in their annual congress guide.

Bob Scholey, the former chairman of British Steel, was once famously proud "to call a spade a bloody spade". Had he used the phrase at the TUC, he might have stopped the proceedings.

This year's advice to the 892 delegates gathered in Blackpool's Winter Gardens, contained in Congress Guide 92, spells out how best to avoid "discriminatory language". Phrases such as "blackleg", "black-listed", or "black economy" may cause offence on the grounds of race, the guide warns.

"Women delegates can also feel discriminated against when confronted with sexist terms such as 'manning', 'manpower' and 'man-

hours'; or when it is implied that they are secondary to male members, for example 'trade union members and their wives', the guide says.

Similarly, the guide says delegates should strive to avoid causing offence to people with disabilities. Thus, it says, "to argue that someone is 'blind' to reason, 'deaf' to arguments or that industry has been 'crippled' is unacceptable."

Delegates are extraordinarily particular in observing these rules — when they remember.

In any case, there is no clear consensus about the need for such advice. Asked about phrases such as black economy, Bill Morris, the black general secretary of Britain's biggest union, the TGWU, said: "I must admit, I do not find these words offensive."

He added: "Banning these words

will not end discrimination, but it is only when you are in a society where there is racism and discrimination that you find people sensitive to these sorts of phrases."

That is a view shared by Roger Lyons, the new left-leaning general secretary of the MSF technical union. He says the TUC is right to "draw a line", on language which might cause offence.

But others say the advice is a needless distraction. According to Barry Reamsbottom, the pragmatist general secretary of the Civil & Public Services Association, the TUC would do better to concentrate its time and effort on "real issues".

On language, as in so many matters, the TUC remains a house divided.

Conference reports, page 5

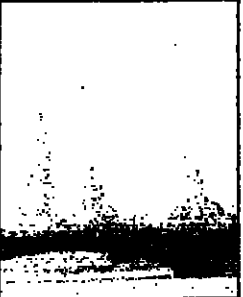
TODAY IN THE TIMES

SOOTHING BY SATIRE



A vicious cartoon can be a godsend to a politician. Life & Times, page 1

RAVING BY RUSSIANS



Discovering Assid Khauz in St Petersburg. Page 9

TYPING BY TV



Television will help stereotypes to last longer than borders. Life & Times, page 5

INDEX

Births, marriages, deaths.....12,13
Crossword.....14
Letters.....11
Obituaries.....13
Sport.....26-30
Weather.....14

LIFE & TIMES

Arts.....2,3
Science.....6
Media.....7
Concise Crossword.....9
Law Report.....9
TV & radio.....10



1X

London zoo's council drops its decision to close

By NICHOLAS WATT

LONDON zoo's ruling council agreed yesterday to lift its decision to close the zoo at the end of the month. The council examined plans to ensure the zoo's survival and one will be chosen next month.

Sir John Chapple, president of the Zoological Society of London, said he was delighted with the decision. "This is more than a stay of execution. We have not qualified our decision. The zoo can remain open because of the great efforts of our staff, our friends and the society's fellows."

He said increased visitors to the zoo since the decision to close in June had generated £500,000 in additional revenues. "The Save Our Zoo campaign has brought in £300,000, and of course we have the generous £1 million gift from the Emir of Kuwait."

Sir John said two of the plans being examined would allow the zoo to continue in its present form for two years while the proposals were put into place. "We are not out of the woods but we are confident that these proposals are in line with the mission statement of the zoo."

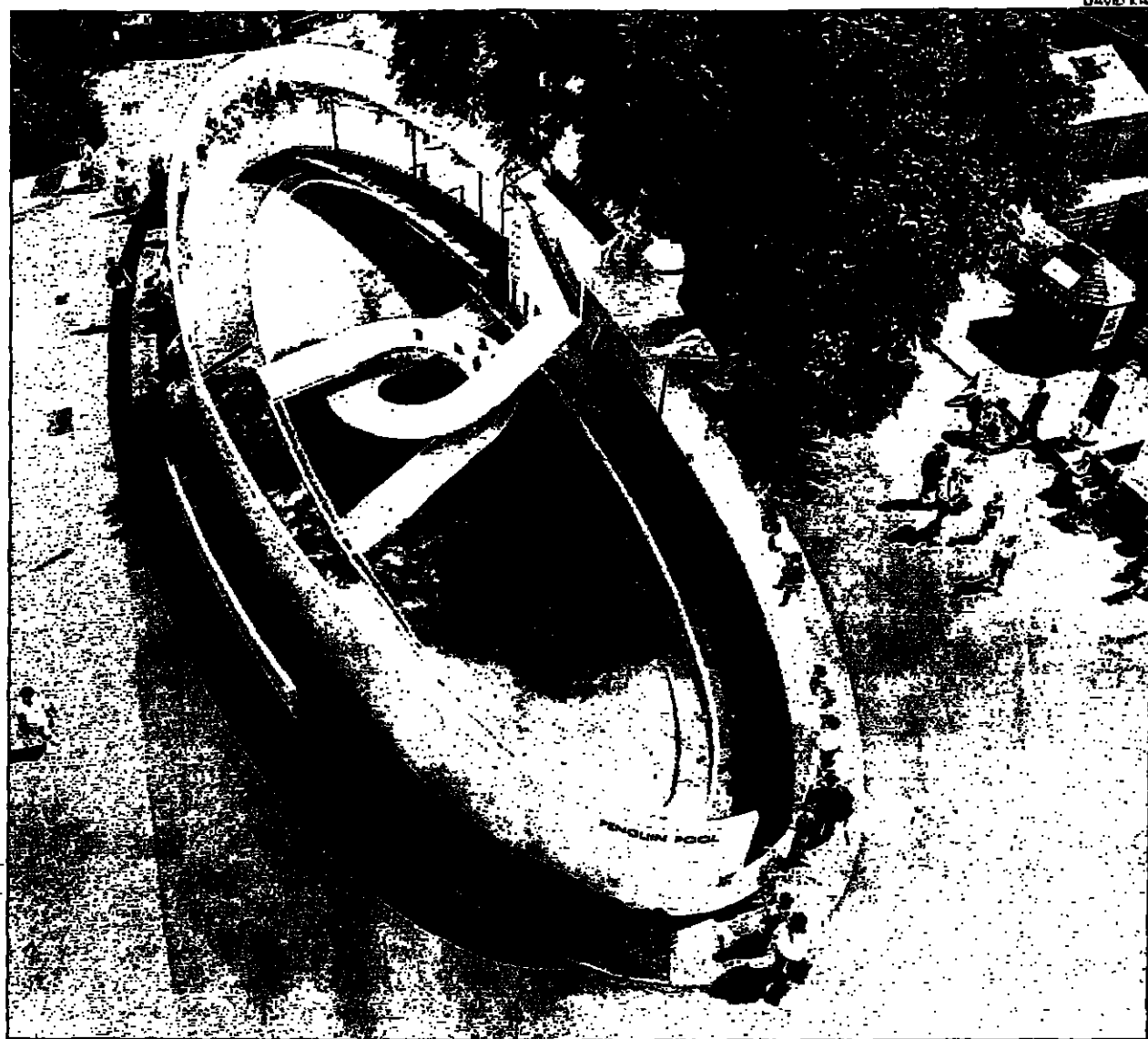
"The council has set up a committee to look at the proposals in detail before a decision is reached next month. Although there are at

least five proposals on the table senior sources in the society indicated last night that three were being studied seriously.

The first is a £17.5 million management plan being drawn up by Jo Gipps, the zoo's chief executive. John Barrington-Johnson, chairman of the assessment group, said: "This plan would develop the Mappin Terraces and bring back bears to London after they were taken out seven years ago. There would also be an African area in the old giraffe house, which would illustrate how man has got to work together with animals on that continent."

The second proposal, a staff buy-out, would be similar to the management plan although it would involve outside consultants, Mr Barrington-Johnson said.

The last of the main proposals is a £61 million plan from David Laing, from the construction family. The proposal would involve an aquarium and a new pavilion that would house three types of rainforest. Ronel Lehmann, Mr Laing's spokesman, said last night: "The news that the zoo will stay open is excellent and will let the council make up its mind on the future in a sensible way. We are cautious-



Reprieved: visitors to London zoo watching the inmates of the penguin pool enclosure yesterday

ly optimistic that our plan to turn the zoo into an ecological park will succeed."

In spite of yesterday's decision the zoological society is still divided over the management's performance. In July the society voted overwhelmingly for the management to resign and next week the result of a postal ballot on

whether the fellows support the council will be announced.

John Edwards, the only council member to vote against the decision in June to close the zoo, said: "The decision is better than a stay of execution. Let us say it is like being out on parole." Colin Tudge, a founder member of the dissident fellows' reform

group, said: "I am delighted. The proposals are in line with the zoo's function to be a serious scientific centre. The society is moving ahead with important constitutional reforms but the result of the ballot will be important."

Visitors to the zoo were delighted with the decision. Peter Lewer, 47, from Guild-

ford, thought he was making his last visit to the zoo. "It is excellent news. The only thing is that sometimes the zoo has an old and decrepit look and it needs several million pounds pumped into it."

Pat Gabriel, 58, a gatekeeper, said: "I am very pleased to hear the news. I hope it stays open for a long time."

London boroughs face shortfall in council tax

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON and the south will suffer most from unexpected shortfalls in revenue when the new council tax comes into operation next April, a survey by the Labour party showed yesterday.

Some councils have found that the tax will raise up to 22 per cent less in their area than they thought. The news is expected to prompt ministers to consider reintroducing the old "rates equalisation scheme" under which poorer areas were compensated by the wealthier ones for having a smaller tax base.

Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, said miscalculations on the size of the local tax base were among the reasons the government would have to find billions as a sweener to avoid bills being significantly higher than expected.

Mr Straw published a com-

prehensive study that confirmed big variations between the original government estimates of what the council tax would raise in individual areas and the revised Inland Revenue estimates.

He said he suspected the original estimates were "massaged" because ministers were desperate to imply that the council tax would be far better than the poll tax.

The survey compared the government estimate of April 1991 with the figures that have emerged since the valuations were lodged with the councils last week. The Inland Revenue figures are, however, based on the value of properties as of April 1991, since when the property market has continued to slump. Mr Straw said there was a "further nightmare" on the way for the government when people received details of their tax

bands and compared them with the prices at which houses were selling in their areas.

The biggest losers from the valuation are the London boroughs of Hackney, which will raise 22.4 per cent less than expected, Greenwich (20.1 per cent), Lewisham (17.5 per cent), and Tewkesbury (17.5 per cent). Those that will receive more income than the original estimates suggested are the Isles of Scilly (29.5 per cent), Ryedale (21.6 per cent) and Scarborough (20 per cent).

Overall, the inner London tax base is 8.5 per cent smaller than expected, and the metropolitan councils are down by 4 per cent. Nationally, the council tax base is 1.8 per cent lower than last year's estimate, but Mr Straw said the figure disguised much bigger problems at the local level, many of them in Conservative areas.

Handel fanfare for FM

A TRUMPET blast from Handel's *Coronation Anthem* at 6am yesterday heralded the debut of Classic FM, BBC Radio's first national commercial competitor in 70 years.

(Melinda Wittstock writes.) But the station's launch was nearly spoiled by BT, which seven hours before had threatened to keep it off the air because of a contractual dispute. BT warned Classic FM executives at 11pm on Sunday that unless the station signed a transmission contract, its airwaves would fall silent.

Michael Bukht, the programme controller better known as the BBC2 chef Michael Barry, said: "It was unbelievable. What were they trying to say? That we wouldn't pay the bills?"

BT would not comment, but is understood to have relented when it realised the backlash that might result.

Classic, which promises its listeners "classical music dressed by Benetton" between 100 and 102 on the FM frequency, is broadcasting "brisk arias" in the mornings and at drive-time, with longer works in the day and at night.

Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11

New Granada boss is in first TV job

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A businessman with no experience in television has been hired to run Granada Television, ITV's oldest company.

Charles Allen, 35, is to take over the post held for years by David Plowright.

Mr Plowright's forced dismissal last February led to industry protests that Granada's long tradition of producing high-quality television would be jeopardised by a new commercial ethic.

Granada will announce today that Mr Allen, former managing director of catering company Compass Services, will replace with immediate effect Andrew Quinn, who was last month appointed ITV's first chief executive.

Eight months ago Mr Quinn replaced Mr Plowright, who was forced to resign after a boardroom dispute over cost-cutting with Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada Group.

Last night Granada staff had not been told about the appointment. But senior executives said privately that they were "deeply shocked" and "bemused" that Granada should not want to hire someone with some experience in television.

One Granada programme head said: "There has been a resounding chorus of 'Charles who?' The jury is still out about what it means, but there is considerable concern that someone with no background in television should be put in charge of running the most senior ITV company in the network. He doesn't know zip

about television."

When Mr Plowright was forced to resign last February from his £145,000-a-year job, 1,000 Granada employees signed a petition in protest. Six key executives including David Liddiment, head of entertainment, Ray Fitzwalter, head of current affairs, and Sally Head, head of drama, said they feared that Mr Robinson would squeeze more profits from Granada Television, cutting programme budgets and increasing efficiency.

Mr Allen, brought in by Mr Robinson to run Granada Leisure eight months ago, is said to have a reputation for "helping people through periods of change". A Granada Group spokesman said last night that Mr Allen, a regular *Coronation Street* viewer, is said to have a high regard for Granada Television and wishes to "keep the talented team together".

When Mr Quinn's appointment as ITV chief executive was announced last month it had been assumed that either Malcolm Wall, Granada TV's head of sales, or Steve Morrison, its head of programmes, would get the chief executive post.

□ The BBC should rely on its broadcasters rather than its bureaucrats to win public support for continuance of the licence fee, Simon Albury, former director of the Campaign for Quality Television said yesterday.

Media, L&T section, page 7

Soldiers barred from Cypriot resort

Hundreds of service personnel from three units based in Cyprus have been banned from the holiday resort of Ayia Napa for a week after a number of alleged violent incidents (Michael Evans writes). A full investigation is being carried out by both military and civilian authorities. Cyprus police said they arrested four British soldiers in the resort, which is popular with young holidaymakers from Britain. Two were charged and released while two were held in custody.

The police said two of the soldiers were involved in a fight with Cypriots after a tourist was beaten. In another incident, police said they were attacked by soldiers when they tried to arrest a serviceman who had stripped naked. A spokesman for the British forces in Episkopi - Britain's western sovereign base on the Mediterranean island - said there were four separate and unrelated incidents in the resort in the early hours of Saturday. The units affected by the ban are the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, an RAF signals unit, and a troop of Royal Engineers. The 1st Battalion Royal Irish Regiment is not banned.

Although the incidents involved only a minority of service personnel, Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Hunter, commander of British forces, imposed the ban as a warning. About 5,000 military personnel are based in Cyprus, including 800 serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force.

Double killer jailed

A husband who stabbed to death his wife and her lover when he caught them having sexual relations in his home was jailed for seven years yesterday. Leslie Tobutt peered through the window and saw his wife, Kate, and her lover, Noel Neville, on an armchair in the living room. As he heard her joke about their marriage, Tobutt picked up a knife, stormed into the room and killed both of them. Tobutt, 42, an electronics engineer, admitted two charges of manslaughter at the Central Criminal Court, on the grounds of diminished responsibility. After hearing of a stormy ten-year marriage in which Tobutt was continually belittled for being passive and ineffectual, Judge Kenneth Machin, QC, jailed Tobutt, of Pinner, northwest London, for seven years. The judge said the case was a tragedy for the man, his two victims and the three young children of their marriage.

Abuse enquiry pledge

There will be a public enquiry into allegations of sexual and physical abuse of up to 200 children in council care in North Wales. Gwilym Jones, the Welsh Office minister responsible for social services and health, said yesterday that the enquiry will take place after police investigations and any prosecutions. Huw Vaughan Thomas, chief executive of Gwynedd County Council, welcomed the announcement which comes after claims that photographs of a badly-beaten child were filed away by social services for at least six years without being passed to police. North Wales police are investigating homes in Gwynedd and Clwyd amid allegations of abuse cases dating back years. More than 1,500 statements have already been taken. The force confirmed allegations against police were being investigated.

Mellor stays silent



David Mellor, left, the national heritage secretary, yesterday dismissed new claims about his alleged relationship with an actress when he visited Hagley Hall, near Birmingham, to chair a meeting of EC culture ministers. At a press conference he said: "I am not going to get sucked into a circulation war between *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*. I shall maintain my silence on the matter."

Rover cuts car prices

Rover yesterday cut car prices by up to £1,000 to match rivals Ford and Vauxhall - with further reductions promised. Rover has cut an average of 7 per cent off all new models except the 800 limousine, and the company expects dealers to cut prices even further to shift stock now sitting in showrooms. At the weekend Ford knocked up to £1,000 off its cars, while Vauxhall cut the cost of Novas and Cavaliers by up to £1,150. Rover, which was hit by an August sales slump of 5,000 cars, has cut production of the Mini, Metro and 200 and 400 Series saloons. The reductions mean £517 off a Mini, bringing it down to £6,415, £750 off a Metro, which is now £8,550, £830 off a 214SL, now £10,000, almost £1,100 off a 420GSI and from £780 to £960 off Maestros and Montegos.

Builders hit again

The recession in the building industry is deepening, according to figures yesterday showing a further fall in applications for planning permission received by councils (Douglas Broom writes). In the first quarter of 1992 district and metropolitan councils in England received 126,000 planning applications, 1 per cent down on the same quarter last year. The number of applications has fallen in each of the past 11 quarters. Applications for new housebuilding decided by councils fell by 7 per cent.

□ Council tenants who want to run their own estates can take government-subsidised courses in housing management, Sir George Young, the housing minister, announced. Tenants on 56 estates were now managing for themselves and more than 90,000 homes were involved in schemes.

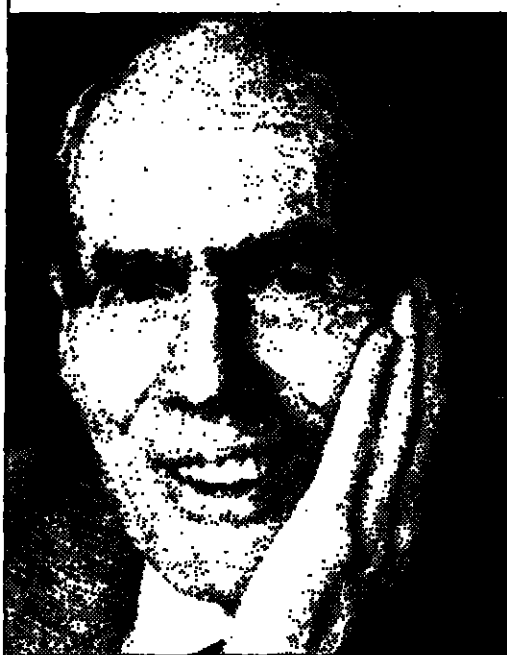
Gambler denies theft

A professional gambler who won and lost huge amounts in casinos, on one night losing £1.1 million, wooed a rich American businesswoman for her money, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday. Yona Beitou, 39, met Nicole Dubois, 37, on a flight from Paris to London, sent flowers to her hotel room, took her to the theatre and wine and dined her. Nicholas Coleman, for the prosecution, said that Mr Beitou claimed to be a commodity trader and that he managed a £500-million investment fund for the Saudis. But Israeli-born Mr Beitou divided his time between the gambling tables of London and Paris, Mr Coleman said. Mr Beitou denies three charges of obtaining property by deception and three of theft between December 1990 and February 1991. The case continues today.

'Living will' launched

The first "living will" designed for people with HIV and Aids-related illnesses was launched yesterday, allowing patients to state whether or not they want their lives prolonged by doctors (Allison Roberts writes). The will, which takes effect only if a patient becomes unable to take part in decision-making, states his or her wishes about medical treatment at the end of life. It can request treatment to keep the signatory alive for as long as possible, or it can ask for all treatment to be stopped. The legal status of the will, drawn up by the Terence Higgins Trust, the Aids charity, and the Centre of Medical Law and Ethics at King's College, London, is at present unclear. However, Andrew Grubb, reader in medical law at the King's College centre, said that a first test case might well make the will legally binding.

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John Major, Prime Minister

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T3

Forests threatened as fungi fall to pollution and leisure

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S forests could become clogged with dead leaves and its timber trees starved of essential nutrients if the decline of Europe's fungi remains unchecked. Almost every forest tree depends on fungi to assist roots in extracting moisture and nutrients from the soil.

Botanists at the XI Congress of European Mycologists at Kew Gardens, west London, said yesterday that many species of scientific, ecological and economically important fungi were becoming increasingly rare in Europe.

Dr Bruce Ing, of the British Mycological Society, said that over the past decade 2,000 of the 10,000-15,000 species of fungi in Europe have been identified as in decline or extinct. The Nail fungus, *peronia*, which grows on horse dung, was once common across Britain but is now confined to the New Forest. Its decline has been linked to fewer horses and



Penny Bun fungus: treat blighted by Chernobyl

the switch from natural feeding to hay and artificial feeds. The most damaging impacts on fungi have been the sharp rise in air pollution and the turning over of sand dunes to recreation and leisure. Deforestation, draining lowland bogs, use of fertilisers, and extensive grazing of grasslands were also contributing to the decline.

Professor Solomon Waser of the N.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany in Kiev, said radioactive mushrooms were threatening the health of people in the independent state. Studies after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986 showed that some people were consuming amounts of radioactive caesium and potassium in the Penny Bun mushroom, a local and nutritious favourite, well over European Community limits.

Irish fa
suffers
double
at UVF



TV anchor
has brain
operation

Irish family suffers second double killing at UVF hands

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A ROMAN Catholic family from Moy, co. Tyrone, suffered its second double murder in nine months when a middle-aged couple were found shot dead at their isolated bungalow near the village yesterday.

Last night the Ulster Volunteer Force claimed responsibility for killing Charles Fox, 63, and his wife Teresa, 53, some time on Sunday night. In January the Foxes' son-in-law and his uncle were murdered during a shooting at a butcher's shop in the village, also carried out by the Ulster Volunteer Force.

According to police accounts, Mr and Mrs Fox were found dead on the floor of their kitchen by their two daughters, who called to see them yesterday morning. Police believe that a car found burning about a mile from the scene was used by the gunmen.

Officers were investigating a revenge theory for the murders by Loyalists following a series of threatening letters sent to Protestant businessmen in Moy by Republicans over the past few days, some of which contained bullets.

In January Kevin McKearney, the son-in-law of Mr and Mrs Fox, became the first victim of the troubles this year when he was shot dead at the family butcher's shop. John McKearney, his uncle, who was seriously injured in the attack, died three months later in hospital.

Last week Patrick Daniel Fox, one of the victims' sons, was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for possessing explosives at Dungannon, co. Tyrone, in August 1990.

The Fox murders, which have been widely condemned, bring the yearly total to 68. Ken Maginnis, the Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, described the killings as a blasphemy before God and a "tragedy for our entire community".

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev Robert Eames, said the killings were a barbarous taking of life. "Once more the evil of murder has visited the diocese of Armagh. No warped reasoning or excuse can possibly justify such a blasphemous action," he said.

In Belfast, at the funeral of a man shot dead by British soldiers at a checkpoint, a Catholic priest gave a warning that there should be no whitewash in the way the case was handled. Two Scots guardsmen, Mark Douglas Wright, 19, and James Fisher, 24, have been charged with the murder of Peter McBride, 18, who died in Belfast last Friday after allegedly running away from an army patrol.

Father Martin Kelly told mourners at Mr McBride's funeral that he was reassured that the soldiers had been charged, but added: "One would hope that the case will not end up as a whitewash, another exercise that serves only to deepen the wounds in our society."

Father Kelly criticised the army in Belfast, which he accused of harassment and bullying. "It is necessary to have an independent review of the policy, the training and the briefings these young men receive before they are sent, armed and poised for action, into a place like the New Lodge," he said.

The IRA yesterday claimed responsibility for the small bomb that exploded in a toilet at the London Hilton hotel near Hyde Park Corner over the weekend. No one was injured in the blast, which came after a warning that bombs had been left at hotels in Park Lane (Stewart Tandler writes).

The statement, issued in Dublin, criticised the police for not evacuating Park Lane hotels. Issued under the pseudonym of P. O'Neill, the statement read: "On this occasion they were fortunate that the explosive device was a relatively small one. In the future, playing with people's lives may lead to much more serious consequences."

The bomb exploded after several warnings had been made, including one telephoned to the NSPCC's freephone line. After the explosion police defended their decision not to evacuate hotels, saying that there was a risk that fresh bombs might have been left in cars or packages outside the hotels as an ambush.



Somerville: recovering at home after surgery

TV anchor has brain operation

BY BILL FROST

JULIA Somerville, the ITN newscaster, is recuperating at her north London home after undergoing surgery for the removal of a benign brain tumour.

An ITN spokeswoman said yesterday that the operation was carried out a month ago at the Charing Cross Hospital, in west London. "We wish Julia a speedy recovery. We have not got a precise date for her return but she will be given as much time as she needs," the spokeswoman added.

Few people working for Independent Television News knew of Ms Somerville's illness. The News At Ten presenter told senior editorial staff that she wanted her health problems kept as quiet as possible. She hopes to return to her job in a few months' time.

Ms Somerville, 45, was discharged from hospital three weeks ago, after spending a little over a week as an in-patient. She last appeared before the cameras in July.

Stewart Purvis, ITN's editor-in-chief, yesterday praised the newscaster's unflinching professionalism. "The few of us who have known about the operation have been enormously impressed by the calm and courageous way in which Julia handled it. We expect to see her back on the screen in the autumn," he said.

Bob Phillips, ITN's chief executive, said: "We all very much look forward to her return to work. Both she and Charing Cross Hospital have been quite magnificent throughout this ordeal. I just hope she is now allowed to be alone with her family, which will ensure the speediest possible recovery."

'Single travellers are overcharged'

BY PETER VICTOR

LONE travellers are being overcharged on single supplements by package tour firms, *Holiday Which?* says. They also get cramped rooms, substandard restaurant service and are ignored by holiday representatives.

Tour operators claim that the supplements are simply charges levied by hoteliers concerned about restaurant and bar receipts dropping if they have too many single guests. The Consumers' Association says, however, that its research does not bear this out.

The association telephoned hotels directly to compare their prices and single room supplements with those charged by tour operators. In some cases there were huge discrepancies. The Hotel Melina in Paphos, Cyprus, was offering bed and breakfast twin rooms last month directly for £23.23 per person per night or a single room for £28.59. The difference for a single person would be £75.04 over a two-week holiday. For the same hotel, Falcon, a tour operator, is charging a supplement of £119 over the two weeks and Airtours £161.

Booking a room on half board at the Torviscas Playa Hotel in Playa de las Americas, Tenerife, last month, would cost £37.75 a night per person in a twin room or

New clue to fox man's murderer

BY STEWART TANDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVES hope that a gold-coloured identity bracelet will lead to the killers of a man stabbed while walking in the woods with his wife to feed foxes. They released details yesterday of the bracelet, found where Robert Wignall, 55, a decorator, was murdered for no apparent reason close to his home at Addlestone, Surrey.

Det Supt Pat Crossan, leading the investigation, said the discovery of the lightweight bracelet was significant. It had been found near the scene. Mr Wignall was beaten and stabbed by three men he and his wife Sandra, 47, met on their way to leave food for foxes. Mr Crossan said: "This was a particularly vicious and brutal attack."

Mr Wignall was "charming, gracious, very well-mannered, a man of honour", Mr Crossan said. "It would seem Mr Wignall put up a struggle after being confronted by these men. They started shouting and pushing him and yelling. He encouraged his wife to run for it, she has told us. She was frightened and was unsure if she should stay or should go. He was clearly a man of honour. That was the calibre of the man, that he would think of his wife's safety at that time."



Knot before time: pupils at Uppingham School, Leicestershire, knotting up their new royal blue and white striped ties at the start-of-term assembly yesterday. They replace the dour black ties worn at the school as a sign of mourning since the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. Dr Stephen Winkley, the headmaster, said: "I thought the old ties were funereal, dreary and inappropriate to a school in the 1990s."

Driver may be prosecuted for death of baby born after crash

BY JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH AND RICHARD FORD

A BABY born by Caesarean section after her mother was killed in a road accident died in her father's arms yesterday. Her death could lead to the driver of the car involved being prosecuted for her manslaughter or causing her death by dangerous driving.

In law, if a baby is delivered alive it is considered a person. For a charge of manslaughter or death by dangerous driving to succeed, the prosecution needs to prove that the baby died of injuries sustained in the womb.

The girl, named Hannah, survived less than 36 hours and died from injuries that she received before birth when her mother, Linda Wolage, 28, was hit by a car at Blackwater, Hampshire. Police are expected to question again the driver of the Ford Fiesta that hit Mrs Wolage and her husband Andrew a few yards from their terrace house as they returned from a trip to London Zoo to celebrate Mr Wolage's birthday.

The driver, Jill Gunns, 47, of Blackwater, who was cut from the wreckage of her car, was interviewed by police and released on bail after the accident on Saturday day night. She is alleged to have refused to provide specimens of breath or blood for an alcohol test.

Mrs Wolage was dead on arrival at Frimley Park Hospital at Camberley, Surrey. Doctors kept her on a life support machine until the baby, which was due in nine days, could be delivered. Mr Wolage, 28, who suffered a broken arm, a

broken leg and internal injuries, named his daughter Hannah.

Throughout Sunday she struggled for life on a respirator in a ward a few yards from where her father was recovering. Last night, Mr Wolage, a computer projects manager, was said to be in a comfortable condition. He had been sedated but was aware that his wife had died.

Christine Williams, head of midwifery at the hospital, said: "Obviously the father is distraught. Everyone here is devastated. The baby was critical and receiving intensive care from the moment she was born."

An inquest into the deaths of Mrs Wolage and her daughter was opened at North Hampshire Coroner's Court, Basingstoke, yesterday and adjourned until October 20. The couple's first child died in December aged five months at Great Ormond Street children's hospital, London, after being born with a hole in the heart.

Under road traffic laws the driver could face charges relating to both Mrs Wolage and Hannah. The offence of causing death by dangerous driving carries a maximum five-year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine, plus a minimum two-year driving ban and the mandatory re-taking of the driving test. The new offence, which replaced causing death by reckless driving, requires that bad driving be demonstrated through its consequences rather than by establishing a driver's intention. The penalty for causing death by careless driving when unfit through drink or drugs is a maximum five-year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine, a two-year ban and a discretionary fresh driving test.

In July the government announced that the maximum prison sentence for dangerous or drunk drivers who kill is to be doubled to ten years.

The new penalty, which will require legislation in Parliament, is to be introduced under pressure from the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, and the public, who wanted the courts to be given greater sentencing powers to reflect the seriousness of the worst cases.

AN ALLEGED drug smuggler who claimed he was entering Britain for a golfing holiday was arrested when he was asked by a customs officer to swing a six iron. Lewes Crown Court was told yesterday. Karl Melms's grip was the wrong way round and his swing so bad that suspicions were aroused.

Melms, 40, an hotelier from Bonn, was questioned when he arrived at Newhaven on a cross-channel ferry from Dieppe. He spoke little English and handed customs officers a note that said he was staying at the Wentworth golf hotel, Virginia Water, Surrey; Michael Brompton, for the prosecution, said.

Daryl Hickman, the officer on duty and a keen golfer, asked Melms to open his car boot and found golf clubs inside. "I asked him what his handicap was and he didn't appear to understand. I took out a number six iron and asked him to show me his swing. He attempted to make a swing. He appeared to me to be someone who does not play the game," said Mr Hickman. A thorough search of the car uncovered Moroccan cannabis resin worth £234,000. The drugs were found inside a sealed metal box hidden between the Audi's boot and the back seat.

Melms, who denies illegally importing drugs, claimed when he was arrested that he did not know the drugs were in the car. The trial continues today.

Drug suspect held after golfing test

BY RAY CLANCY

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Daryl Hickman, the officer on duty and a keen golfer,

Chinese takeaway fined £44,500

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO environmental health officers found unexpected extras on the menu when they called at the August Moon Chinese takeaway in Hungerford, Berkshire.

In the kitchen they found a mouse head and rat droppings among rotting food, while in cupboards there was a mulch of leaves, grease and dead insects.

The conditions led yesterday to fines of £44,500 for breaches of the 1970 Food Safety Act and costs of £1,306 against San Yau Wong, the restaurant owner, and his son Wai Yau Wong, the manager.

Magistrates also banned San Yau Wong from taking part in any food business after the court was told he had been fined £1,000 four years ago for insanitary conditions at the August Moon's sister restaurant of the same name in Newbury.

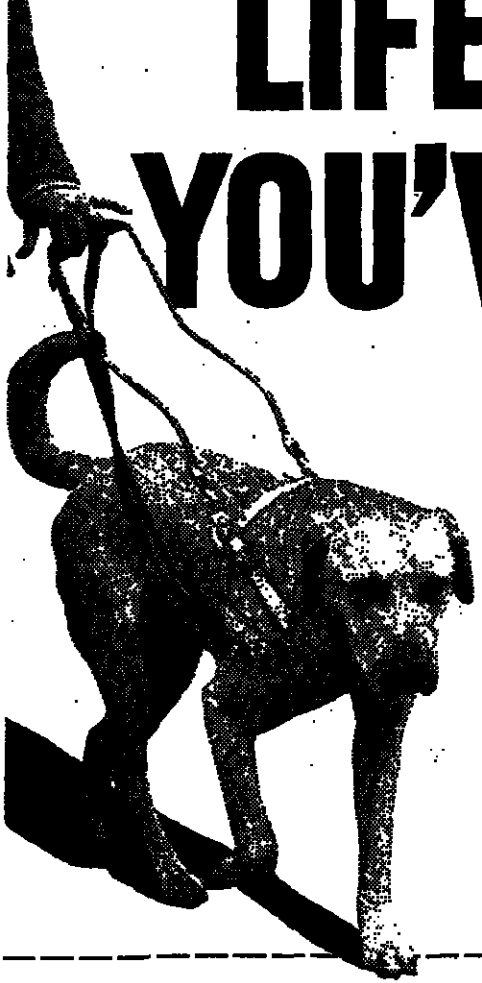
Last night the takeaway, in Hungerford High Street, was continuing to trade after a big clean-up. Customers were told: "We're open for business as normal. We've had a bit of trouble with the council but that's sorted out now. We've never been asked to close the takeaway down."

Environmental health officers, who found the conditions during a routine check in April, said the August Moon closed down briefly after being caught out by inspectors. John Parfitt, environmental health manager for Newbury, said: "We had not received any complaints. The owner voluntarily closed it down while they complied with all the regulations, cleaned up and made the premises rodent-proof."

The officers said that conditions ranked among the worst they had seen and I had no hesitation in recommending a prosecution. The court has seen fit to reflect increasing public concern over food safety.

Mr Wong senior pleaded guilty to 26 breaches of the Food Safety Act and was fined £28,500. His son faced 21 similar charges and was fined £16,000. They told the court they had been hit by the recession and that consequent lack of staff led to their difficulties in keeping to hygiene standards.

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Chemists blame Whitehall for failure to dump unwanted pills



Mawhinney: public must be protected

A £1 MILLION offer by the health department to help pharmacists dispose of unwanted medicines received a lukewarm reception yesterday at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's conference in Birmingham.

Pharmacists said that while the health department was promoting safe disposal, the environment department was making the process more difficult. Regulations issued in April lay a "duty of care" on any pharmacist offering to dispose safely of unwanted medicines.

David Coleman, president of the society, said that this meant that the pharmacist was expected to produce a detailed list of everything he was disposing of. "If somebody comes to you with 2,000 assorted white tablets, it's quite frankly impossible to analyse them all."

Since April, when the regulations

came into force, pharmacists' Dump schemes (disposal of unwanted medicines and poisons) had declined, he said. The change arose from the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and specified that schemes for collecting and disposing of medicines must be approved by local waste regulation authorities, which could insist on detailed consent notes for each batch. Negotiations between the society and the environment department have taken place but have yet to reach a satisfactory outcome.

"For years, patients have been bringing us unwanted medicines — when somebody dies, for example," Mr Coleman, a pharmacist at village of Stalham, Norfolk, said. "If we had a large amount of pills or medicines to dispose of, the local health authority would collect them and take them for disposal at an

Nigel Hawkes examines a dispute between ministers and pharmacists over the best way to empty Britain's bathroom cabinets

incinerator. Very small amounts we might simply flush away."

The nation's bathroom cabinets are littered with unwanted medicines, many of which are dangerous. The society estimates that every year 25,000 children under five are taken to hospital with poisoning caused by medicines and 13 die. In 1987 the National Poisons Information Service estimated that the cost to the health service of accidental poisoning was £2.5 million a year.

The recent white paper *Health of the Nation* sets a target of reducing accidental poisoning by a third by the year 2000. Brian Mawhinney,

the health minister, told the society yesterday: "Regrettably, the medicine cabinets of the nation are all too frequently full of unused and unwanted medicines. It is important that these are handled in a safe way that protects the public and the environment."

He announced that the department would make available £1 million to promote the setting up of local schemes for the disposal of patients' medicines collected in pharmacies, though he gave no details of how the money would be spent.

"We are hoping to agree the details of these schemes with the

British Pharmaceutical Society," a department spokesman said. "We are working closely with them and will listen closely to any representations they make about the environmental regulations."

In the past, the society has launched local schemes lasting a week or a fortnight, using the regional press to publicise them. Thousands of tons of medicines a year have been collected.

Since the medicines were reclassified as industrial waste, pharmacists had been "very torn about what to do", Mr Coleman said. "In some cases, the local health authorities have devised ways of getting around the regulations, but that is really unsatisfactory. We want the two departments to knock a few heads together and come up with a solution. We said to the minister, 'Yes, fine, we're delighted to have £1 million, but the real

point is to get the regulations right so that pharmacists don't have to deal with a huge bureaucracy. It's not really a matter of money, because we have disposed of medicines for our patients for nothing in the past. The point is to get it out of people's houses and dumped, and that won't be done by imposing impossible bureaucratic demands on pharmacists."

Dr Mawhinney later asked the pharmacists to play their part in the government's strategy to improve the nation's health. He asked them to draw up agreed aims for the profession. Ideally they would include a list of services offered to patients, how they would contribute towards health targets, a commitment to the patient's charter and performance-related pay. He was concerned at the cost of new drugs, claiming more could be done to use cheaper alternatives.

70% of parents help pay for text books at 'underfunded' schools

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN out of ten parents are contributing to the cost of their children's school books, and nearly a third of schools say they have an inadequate supply of reading material, according to a new survey of more than 1,000 primary and middle schools in England and Wales.

The reading survey, conducted by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, found that parents and other adults helped to buy books and other reading tools at 67 per cent of urban schools and at 84 per cent of rural schools. More than a quarter of the classes at the 1,146 schools responding had more than 30 pupils, a pressure which, the survey argues, frustrates the teaching of reading.

Nigel de Gruchy, the

union's general secretary, said yesterday that parents were bailing out schools while the government washed its hands of the problem. "One of the fundamental and essential characteristics of all methods of teaching reading is the availability of a sympathetic and skilled listener on a regular basis. This is important at all ages and levels of achievement in the primary school. Unfortunately, financial restrictions and the organisation of some schools militate against this need."

Margaret Tulloch, secretary of the Campaign for State Education, said the survey indicated the increasing dependence of schools upon parental generosity. "It shows that the quality of children's education depends upon their parents' ability to pay. We are now seeing people being prepared to buy books, when before they were not. The barriers are coming down about what parents feel it is right to pay for."

The Department of Education welcomed the evidence of parental contributions to schools' running costs, which, it said, should be seen in the correct perspective. "The government is aware that parents sometimes provide extra funds for schools, but such contributions need to be seen in context. These are sums at the margin," a spokeswoman said. Spending on books and equipment had risen by 38 per cent between 1980 and 1990, she said.

The NAS/UNT survey will give unexpected comfort to educational traditionalists, who fear that the teaching of reading has fallen prey to progressive "child-centred" methods. The most popular single teaching method reported by the schools was traditional "phonics", which links signs to sounds. At the same time, more than 90 per

cent of schools said they used computers to develop children's reading and writing skills.

Grant-maintained schools and the local education authorities from which they have opted out would both be abolished under proposals published yesterday in the Liberal Democrat education "white paper".

Don Foster, education spokesman, said that all opted-out schools would be restored to council control, even if parents wished to preserve the school's grant-maintained status. "There would be no option for a GM school to stay outside local accountability and the strategic planning authority," he said.

It was unjust for individual schools to frustrate local rationalisation plans, he said, citing the example of Beechen Cliff school, in Avon, which opted out in 1990 to avoid a change of status. He said: "As a result of that, the planned reorganisation of Bath education did not take place."

The old local education authorities, Mr Foster said, would be replaced by pared-down education departments staffed by elected councillors and responsible for strategic planning, quality control and arbitration of disputes. The new departments would also provide financial and legal support for pupils with special needs and nursery education for every child.

Mr Foster renewed his party's election call for a £2 billion investment in education over 12 months, funded if necessary by a penny on income tax, "to remedy the chronic underfunding of education". Council-controlled schools would enjoy greater financial freedom by an extension of the local management of schools policy, which Liberal Democrats claim they first devised.

Bats to get legal protection under European agreement

BATS are likely to be protected by law under a European bat agreement to be signed by every EC member country within the next two years, more than 200 academics and conservationists at the annual national bat conference at Stirling University were told at the weekend.

The impetus for the agreement, which will become enforceable throughout Europe, has come largely from Britain, where bats and their roosts have been protected since 1981.

There were no fewer than 15 species in Britain until this year, when the last remaining mouse-eared bat died. In recent years their decline has been accelerated due to the loss of roosts, as caves and tunnels have been blocked or disturbed by humans, woodland destroyed and buildings converted with toxic timber treatment.

The greater horseshoe bat has declined by 99 per cent this century, and numbers about 3,000. There are about 10,000 lesser horseshoe bats in Britain, but other species, such as Bechstein's bat and the Barbastelle variety, are in danger of disappearing.

Phil Richardson, of the Bat Conservation Trust, said: "The conference has brought together leading bat biologists, conservationists and some of the country's 2,000 amateur bat workers. It provides an opportunity for updating knowledge on current

Bats can look forward to fewer sleepless days under an EC protection plan, Kerry Gill reports



Greater horseshoe: only 3,000 left in Britain

research and resources." Mr Richardson hopes that increased publicity about bats will dispel some of the myths that surround the creatures. All Britain's bats, for exam-

ple, feed on insects and act as natural insecticides. While some are capable of consuming a chunky moth or beetle, the Pipistrelle, the most common in Britain, can devour up to 3,500 small flies and gnats in a night.

Bats can live for up to 30 years, are not blind, and are clean animals that groom themselves regularly. None are harmful.

Bats are active mainly between sunset and sunrise. Mr Richardson said. Their day begins around noon, when they start moving in their roosts, constantly chattering. By evening they become more active, and as dusk approaches, make for their feeding areas. They are most active in the hours before midnight, when they often find roosts. They can start feeding again before dawn, but at sunrise they return to their day roost. From sunrise to noon they are fast sleep.

Most bat colonies are found in the south and southwest of England because of the warmth and larger insect populations. The Noctule bat, one of the biggest, is found as far north as central Scotland, while the Natterer is found throughout the country.

Once the European bat agreement is ratified, it will become, as in Britain, an offence intentionally to damage or destroy bats' habitats or injure a bat. In Britain, an offence can bring a fine up to £2,000.

LSE offers site for court use

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE London School of Economics is discussing selling part of its site in central London for use by the High Court, to raise money for buying County Hall.

In the latest twist in the contest between the LSE and Shriyama, a Japanese hotel group, to buy the former home of the Greater London Council, LSE officials said that they would hold talks this week with officials of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

They will discuss moving some courts and staff from the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, which face a growing caseload, to the LSE buildings in Houghton Street, off Aldwych. If the move goes ahead, the LSE hopes to sell the rest of the site to law firms.

A £65 million bid by the LSE for County Hall being considered by Michael Howard, the environment secretary, depends on selling Houghton Street for about £100 million. By opening discussions with prospective buyers, the LSE hopes to counter suggestions that the site is unsaleable in the present economic climate.

Spassky fights back to make it square

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BORIS Spassky, the former world champion, has struck back to seize a victory in the fourth game of the so-called "world chess championship" in Sveti Stefan, in the former Yugoslavia.

His opponent, Bobby Fischer, said: "I underestimated Spassky's attack." The game did justice to the attacking style of the Russian's best days, recalling wins against Fischer in the sixties.

As a measure of Fischer's frustration at his inability to score a second win, he has demanded that television and still cameras be banned from taking his picture.

The score has been levelled at 1-1, with two draws. By notching up a classic win, Spassky has confounded those critics, including the world champion Gary Kasparov, who had predicted that he would not win a single game. The opening of the fourth game was an unusual choice

for Fischer, the first time in his life that he had employed the Queen's Gambit Accepted. After 18 moves the position seemed level, with Fischer, if anyone, standing slightly better. The nineteenth move featured an attacking gesture that brought retribution in its wake. Spassky immediately sacrificed a rook for Fischer's bishop, which tied the American in knots.

Further hammer blows by Spassky followed. Fischer was obliged to return all his captured material and faced an endgame with Spassky about to promote a pawn to a queen on the far left flank.

After 50 moves and five and a half hours of play, Fischer conceded defeat. The next game is on Wednesday night.

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	d5	27 Nc2	Rb8
2 c4	exd4	28 Bc3	h5
3 Nf3	Nf6	29 Rg1	Qb6
4 e3	e6	30 Kd2	as
5 Bxc4	c5	31 Rg5	a4
6 f4	a6	32 b4	Rb5
7 dxc5	Qxd1	33 b5	Rb5
8 Rxd1	Bxc5	34 Nd4	as
9 b3	Nb7	35 Nc5	Nc5
10 Bb2	b6	36 Rb5	Rg7
11 Nd2	Bb7	37 Rxd5	Nc5
12 Rxc1	Be7	38 Bc3	Rc3
13 Nd4	Rc8	39 Bb4	as
14 f3	B5	40 Rxd3+	Nb5
15 Bc2	Be5	41 Bxb5	Rb5
16 Kf1	Ke7	42 Rg5+	Kf7
17 a4	g5	43 Bc5	Nc5
18 Nb1	g4	44 Rxd3	Rc3
19 Bc3	b4	45 Rxd3	Kf7
20 Rxc5	Nc5	46 Rg5+	Kf7
21 Bxb4	Rb5	47 Bb4	F6
22 Nd3	g3	48 Rg5	Kg6
23 g3	Ng7	49 Bb5	as
24 Kf2	Rg8	50 Rb5	Rb3
25 Kf3	Rc7		Fischer resigns

Position at close of play

Two editors join press watchdog

Two regional newspaper editors have joined the Press Complaints Commission as press members. Lord McGregor of Durris, the commission chairman, announced yesterday.

George McKechnie, editor of the *Glasgow Evening Times*, takes over from William Anderson, managing editor of the *Sunday Post*, while Keith Parker, editor of the *Wolverhampton Express & Star*, replaces Robert Ridley, editor of the *Manchester Metro News*.

The Press Complaints Commission's policy is to regularly rotate its editor-members. Two months ago Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, took over from Max Hastings, editor-in-chief of *The Daily Telegraph*.

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Death boat skipper fined

The captain of a speedboat that crashed into a lock on the Thames killing one passenger and injuring six was acquitted of manslaughter at the Old Bailey. Mark Gilligan, 28, of Ilford, Essex, admitted navigating a vessel in a manner liable to injure or endanger lives, and was fined £300.

Paul Deacon, 19, was thrown into the river when the boat, travelling at twice the speed limit, crashed at Richmond, west London. His body was recovered three days later.

Murder denial

A solicitor denied at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday a charge of murdering his wife. Warren Green, 26, of Springfield, Wigan, who worked for the Crown Prosecution Service in Salford, Greater Manchester, was remanded on bail of £66,000 on condition that he remains at a fixed address in Birmingham.

Burning blood

Detectives are to publicly burn 1,600 blood samples and fingerprints taken from every man and youth in Rawthorpe, Huddersfield, to track down the killer of Angela Flaherty, aged seven. The mass DNA screening led officers to Anthony Craven, 18, who was jailed for life in May.

Boat appeal

Clyde coastguards are appealing for help to trace the fishing boat *Helga Maria* and its crew of eight, missing since they left Newland-on-Avon on August 7 on a 15,000-mile voyage to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America.

Amex fined

American Express was fined £1,500 for failing to ensure the safety of an employee after Bernard Rogers, 59, a senior executive, fell to his death from his third floor office in Poole, Dorset.

Priest held

Father Antony McCallan, 48, a Roman Catholic priest, of St Anthony's presbytery, H.L., was remanded in custody by Hull magistrates, charged with indecently assaulting a 15-year-old boy.

Water theft

A farmer was fined £150 with £319 costs for taking water from his own stream to irrigate his potato crop at Polimore, Devon. Philip Greed, 71, did not have a licence to take the water.

Police kill cow

Police marksmen shot dead a heifer after it escaped from a pen at Southminster, Essex, and attacked a farmer's son and two other men.

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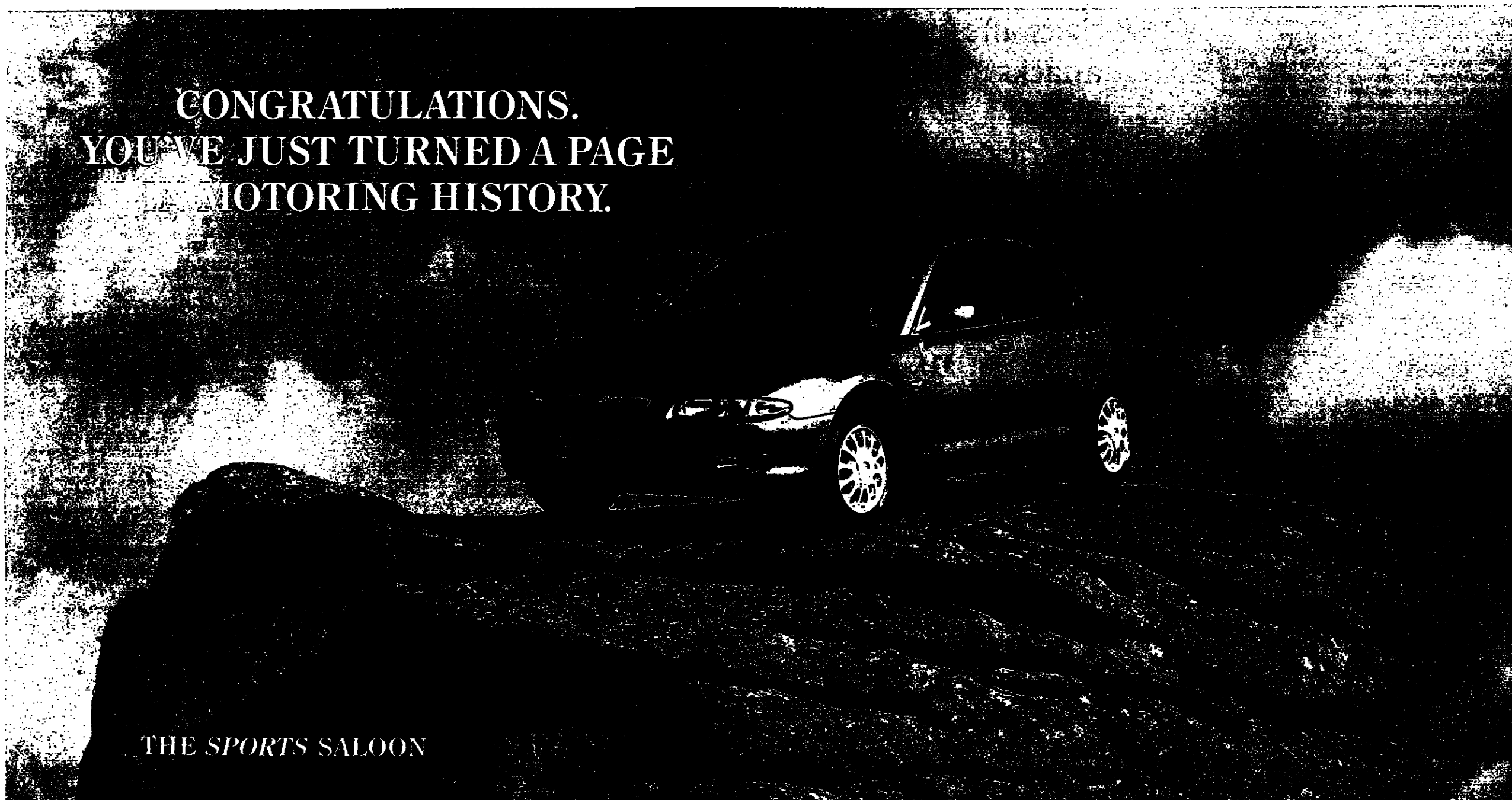
This summer sees a rather special event in the motoring calendar. The launch of a car that is genuinely different from the rest. It's called the Xedos 6.

The design brief was simple. Start with a clean sheet and end with the ultimate luxury sports saloon. Along the way break a good few rules.

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Gone, too, are the rather spartan interiors favoured by the Germans. Sit in a Xedos SE and you sink into soft leather, cocooned in a sculpted cockpit that curves gently round you.

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Shooting in Ciskei forces de Klerk to stop talks

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT de Klerk was forced yesterday to abandon his planned agenda for a conference in Pretoria on a federal solution of the country's constitutional problems and concentrate on the situation in the Ciskei homeland, where a bloodbath erupted when troops opened fire on African National Congress marchers.

The conference was planned as the first of a series to demonstrate that the government was not sitting back while the ANC refused to resume constitutional negotiations. The ANC would not have any part of it, nor would the white opposition Democratic Party, long an advocate of federalism, which sent only observers.

Zac de Beer, the Democratic Party leader, described the conference as an apparent "ganging up" of anti-ANC forces who were part of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) negotiations that broke down in June after the Boipatong killings. Immediately after opening the one-day conference yesterday, Mr de Klerk went into a

huddle with cabinet ministers in an adjoining room to discuss the Ciskei situation. He emerged to tell delegates: "We are deeply shocked. With co-operation, it could have been avoided." He said that, according to his information, it was clear that the conditions laid down for the march by a magistrate had not been adhered to. No South African security forces were involved in the shooting and everything happened on the Ciskei side of the border, he said.

"I would like to stress that the role of the South African government throughout has been one of trying to avoid just this," Mr de Klerk said. "We have been involved constantly over days in discussions in order to ensure that whatever mass action takes place does so in an orderly manner."

According to ANC sources in Johannesburg, the march on Bisho, the capital of Ciskei, was the beginning of a mass action campaign against "hostile homelands". The next targets are to be KwaZulu, the fiefdom of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister and leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, and Bophuthatswana, ruled by Lucas Mangope.

The ANC apparently has no quarrel with Venda, which is ruled by a military junta sympathetic towards it; nor Transkei, where General Bantu Holomisa, its military leader, survived a coup attempt less than two weeks ago.

But "Bop", as it is familiarly known, has resisted strongly ANC activities, and at Codesa Mr Mangope's representatives have opposed bitterly proposals that would force it to abandon its sovereignty - created by apartheid and recognised nowhere else, but by Pretoria.

KwaZulu is one of nine self-governing black homelands that under Chief Buthelezi has refused to accept Pretoria's version of independence. As leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, he heads the main black opposition to the ANC.

Five years ago South African troops intervened on a large scale to put down a coup attempt in Mbabatha, the

Somalia's gunmen exact toll of food

FROM ANDREW HILL IN BAIDOA, SOMALIA

THE Rambo of Baidoa glimpsed a white face in the approaching vehicle and saw red. He adjusted his headscarf and sunglasses, tossed a bandoleer of bullets over his shoulder and waved his machinegun menacingly. "No foreigners in Baidoa," he hissed, standing over two mines in the path of the car outside the worst-hit town in the Somali famine.

He relented, eventually. But he repeated the performance several times for other white visitors. His script, relief workers say, was written by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the warlord who, with his allies, controls Baidoa and two-thirds of Somalia, including half of Mogadishu and its port.

General Aidid, fighting for power and territory against his rival, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Muhammad, feels threatened by United Nations plans to deploy 3,500 armed guards to protect relief convoys from looting. He argues they would violate what sovereignty the ruined nation still has after 20 months of civil strife.

But the real reason for his opposition, UN staff and aid workers say privately, is power and money. If the blue berets went into territory he claims, he would lose both.

The only economy Somalia has left is food aid and aid workers. Gunmen are paid by



Food queue: a Somali family waits in a registration room in Baidoa yesterday before being fed at a centre run by the charity Concern

every relief agency to guard their lives and the food they bring. They are rewarded in cash and food, sometimes as much as half of a shipment. It is the price the UN pays for permission to operate in a country where there is no law but the gun, no government but the gunmen and little negotiation, except at gunpoint.

Clan leaders bestow patronage on the gunmen by allowing them to operate in ports, warehouses, roadblocks. They assign areas where the gunmen can ride shotgun on food convoys. The clan that controls Mogadishu's wrecked airport even exacts a landing fee on aid flights: £50 for a small plane,

£150 for a Hercules transport. Aid is the economy. "The word 'Somal' means to milk a camel. And that's exactly what is going down here. They're milking us like they always do," said a senior UN official who was involved in food aid here in the 1980s. General Aidid has reluctantly agreed to the deployment of 500 UN armed troops to protect Mogadishu's port and airport from gangs of looters, although his men will still be paid for guarding the food once it is outside the port. "It means the official looting in the warehouses will continue, but the unofficial looting will stop," said an aid worker.

In Baidoa, 200 people die daily of hunger. The local governor, Mohamed Youssef, an Aidid appointee, welcomed his visitor cordially. But behind his dusty desk were welcome signs of another kind. "Foreign army no. Food yes," read one. "We need food, not troops," said another. (Reuters)

PEOPLE

Shultz is honoured by Seoul

The South Korean government named former the US Secretary of State, George Shultz, the winner of the \$150,000 Seoul Peace Prize.

Mr Shultz, 72, was awarded the prize for his contribution to ending the Cold war through arms control talks and summit meetings he had arranged between Washington and Moscow, the award committee said. "He also played a crucial role in staging successfully the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics," the committee chairman, Kim Yong Shik, said. Mr Shultz was Secretary of State from 1982 to 1988 under Ronald Reagan. Winner of the first prize two years ago was Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee.

Baroness Thatcher arrived in Azerbaijan's capital of Baku as a guest of Azerbaijani authorities. Tass reported. She was due to meet the Azerbaijani president, Abulfaz Elchibey, and attend the ceremonial signing of an agreement between the republic's government and British Petroleum.

Henry Ephron, who with his wife wrote a series of witty films in Hollywood's postwar golden era, has died in Los Angeles, aged 81. A playwright, screen writer and producer, the Ephrons' highlights included *Daddy Long Legs* (1955) with Fred Astaire.

A performance of Swan Lake at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre came to a virtual halt after Mexican soap opera star Veronica Castro, who plays the heroine in *The Rich Also Cry*, a huge hit in Russia, visited the theatre and her box was mobbed by spectators.



Bophuthatswana capital that adjoins the historic Boer town of Mafikeng. Troops from Pretoria, 50 miles away, were dispatched in armoured cars to free President Mangope and other homeland leaders who had been taken hostage and were being held in the football stadium. Pretoria could no doubt act just as forcibly again as it might have done yesterday in Ciskei.

A march on Chief Buthelezi's capital of Umtata, which is well within the KwaZulu homeland, strategically would be suicide. It would leave Pretoria little choice but to deploy its troops and security forces on a massive scale.

Ciskei bloodbath, page 1

Party claims stake in Deng reforms

Peking is emphasising the leading role of the Communist Party while turning the country's economy towards capitalism, Catherine Sampson writes

AS REPORTS emerged that China may hold its five-yearly party congress as early as next month, *People's Daily*, the national newspaper, devoted an entire page yesterday to a ringing endorsement of traditional party values.

At a time when many Chinese question the relevance of the Communist Party, the article said that everything from the success of economic reform to social stability depended on the party.

The article appeared to be an attempt to justify the party's existence and to present a unified face to the world in the run-up to the congress after rumours of faction fighting. Disagreement between hardliners and reformists over policy and leadership changes had been thought likely to delay the congress until November or December.

But yesterday Wan Li, chairman of China's rubber-stamp parliament, told a Japanese visitor that the congress may take place in October. Deng Xiaoping, now a frail 88, is unlikely to attend but is believed to be pushing hard behind the scenes for a radical reform programme that would involve more foreign investment, more private enterprise and mass lay-offs from state factories.

Yesterday *People's Daily* gushed equal praise for Marx, Mao and Mr Deng, claiming Mr Deng had managed to defeat hardliners because of his understanding of Marxism. The article echoed Mr Deng's determination to keep tight

political control while freeing the economy. It urged development of "democracy within the party" but said: "The party will not allow any faction to exist and will not allow any activity aimed at harming or splitting the party."

Yet even official publications have recently admitted that weekly political education sessions, a staple of life for state employees until now, are a waste of time. Far better, said several newspapers, to use the time constructively by putting reform into practice rather than talking about it.

At present, the party is only inching towards abolition of political education sessions and military training courses. As much as anyone else, Mr Deng is against political loosening up. But in the economic sphere Mr Deng has no such hesitation. Shenzhen, the capitalist zone bordering Hong Kong, is to be expanded. Since Mr Deng renewed his call for radical reform earlier this year, it has been fashionable for every province, even isolated Tibet, to declare that it is about to fling open its doors to the world.

Shenzhen has flourished since Mr Deng lavished preferential treatment on it in the early 1980s. When he gave it near-autonomy in trade and investment it was effectively a licence to print money. Shenzhen is Mr Deng's vision of a new China. Its expansion holds the political as well as economic message, and will be seen nationwide as a vindication of Mr Deng's policies.

Saddam son calls for democracy, Iraqi style

FROM REUTER IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein's eldest son was yesterday quoted as saying it was time democratic reforms were introduced in Iraq to thwart Western attempts to dismember the country.

"Time has come to apply democracy to disarm enemies of the weapon they brandish against Iraq," Saddam's son, Uday, wrote in his newspaper, *Babil*. His call comes less than two weeks after the United States and its Gulf war allies

imposed a no-fly zone over much of Iraq's Shia south.

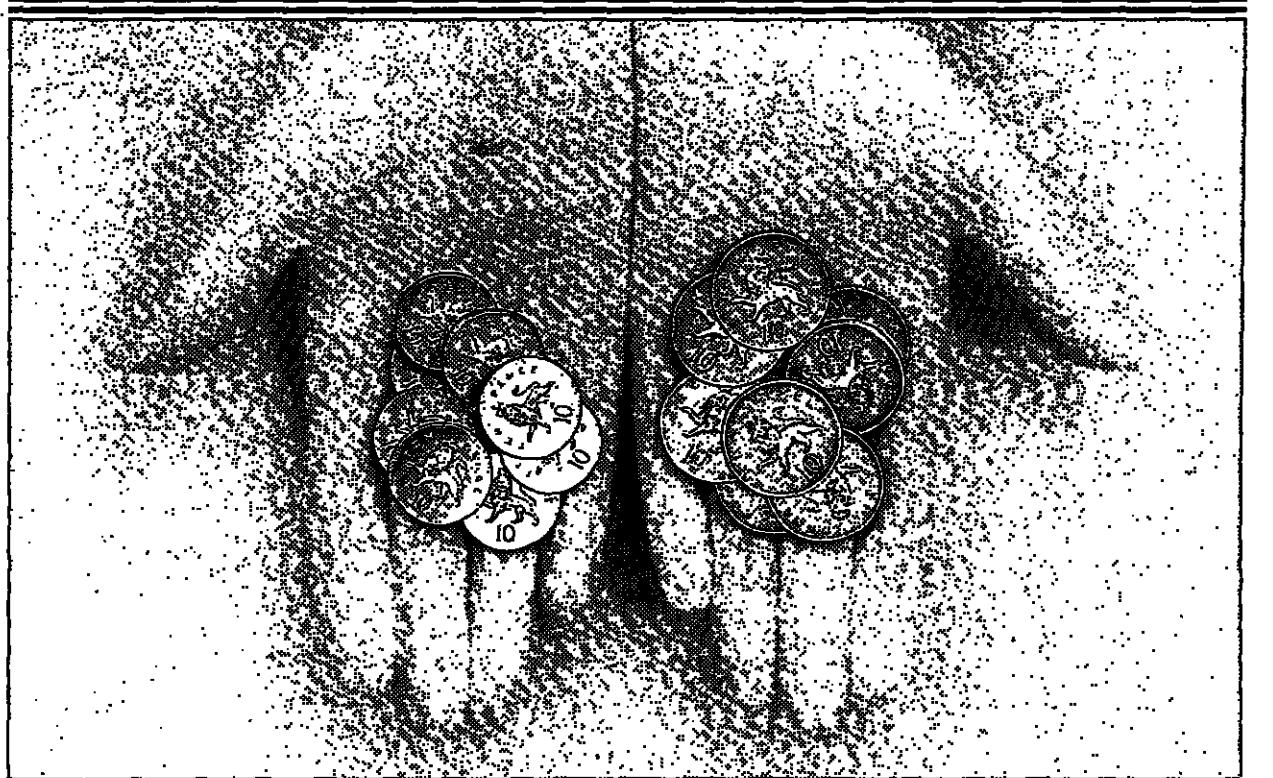
"Our people have reached complete political maturity," he said, adding that the type of democracy he had in mind should be along the guidelines set by Saddam. "We can apply all the paragraphs dealing with democracy in President Saddam Hussein's speeches... and settle the situation decisively in our favour."

Saddam pledged in his first speech after the Gulf war to

introduce limited democratic changes including a new constitution, multiparty activity and press freedom. But he has repeatedly emphasised that there would be no place for Western-style democracy in Iraq.

Saddam told a party congress last year that anyone adopting "Western" values would not be allowed to "direct the political, social and cultural life of the country". Iraq's multiparty law, issued

in September 1991, legalised the creation of opposition political parties, but retained the leading role of the ruling Baath party, granting it the sole right to campaign and lobby for members from the armed and security forces. The law was rejected by opposition factions abroad and nobody in Iraq has applied to form a political group. Other promised reforms, such as a new constitution and freedom of the press, are still on the shelf.



From September 30th the ten pence coin will be a little less of a handful.

September 30th sees the launch of the new, more convenient ten pence coin. As you'll see, it's a little smaller and lighter. So it's a little easier to carry around.

The handy new ten pence coin will replace the old one - which ceases to be legal tender on June 30th, 1993.



THE NEW TEN PENCE COIN. A NEW CONVENIENT SIZE.



Women's low-paid work is never done

FROM DAVID BRISCOE IN WASHINGTON

IT IS the law in Cuba: men are required to help around the *hacienda*. But like their male counterparts in Poland, Japan and the United States, they just do not do their fair share.

Nearly everywhere in the world, women are dressing the children, washing the clothes, cooking the meals, making the beds and taking out the rubbish - all before they go to work to earn less than men, according to an International Labour Organisation report released yesterday. But it is not just American husbands causing the problem.

In Poland, even the youngest of married men, do not help with the housework, while Japanese men spent only 15 minutes a day on chores around the house, the report by the United Nations agency says. In Nor-

dic countries, men whose working hours were reduced used the extra time for leisure activities. And in Cuba, 82 per cent of all Havana women do all the domestic chores, despite the law requiring men to help with the housework.

"Family responsibilities are at the heart of much discrimination against women," said Michel Hansenne, director-general of the Geneva-based organisation. "Women are expected to stay at home to look after children and are then treated as second-class workers because of this." The differences between pay for men and women widened in both developing and industrialised countries, despite decades of efforts to advance female equality in the workplace. Women work more hours a week, including

housework, than men in every part of the world except North America and Australia. They work the hardest in Africa. In North America and Australia, men

vive la différence



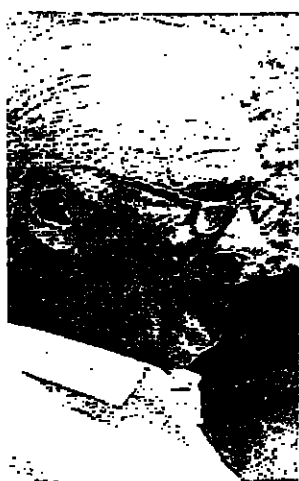
work 49 hours a week, while women work 47.5, the report says. In Western Europe, women average 48 hours, men 43; Japan's women work 56 hours and men 54;

in Latin America, women work 60 hours compared to 54 for men.

Australian women are at the top of the pay equality scale, with salaries increasing from 86 per cent of men's in 1980 to nearly 88 per cent in 1988, the most recent year for which figures are available. American women's salaries increased from 60 per cent of men's to 65 per cent over about the same period. Other countries where gains were made include Belgium, from 69.4 to 75.1 per cent and Britain, 73.4 to 76.6 per cent.

Arab countries have the lowest percentage of women employed - 8 per cent in Algeria, 10 per cent in Egypt. Some of the highest rates of women working are in Africa, with 87 per cent in Malawi and 71 per cent in Zimbabwe. (AP)

Doubting Danes search for realistic ways to keep EC link



Schlüter: text of the treaty must be changed

POUL Schlüter, Denmark's Conservative prime minister, is considering holding a fresh vote on Europe by next summer. In June, Denmark voted against the Maastricht treaty, throwing the future of a united Europe in doubt.

In a speech at a Conservative party conference marking his tenth year in office, Mr Schlüter confirmed at the weekend that the Danish electorate would not be asked to vote again on Maastricht this year. He indicated, though, that Denmark would probably have to hold a referendum on its relationship with Europe next summer, when its future within the European Community had been clarified.

The solution to Maastricht may lie in an associate membership, writes Christopher Follett from Copenhagen

DENMARK

"The Maastricht treaty cannot be implemented with the signatures of only 11 member states of the European Community," Mr Schlüter said. "There can be no talk of another referendum this year in Denmark on an unchanged Maastricht text. But when we reach a new, different basis for the country's relations with the EC, it will be

the best thing in a democracy like ours to go to the Danish electorate again and ask for their approval of a formula for Danish accommodation with the Community based on broad consensus between the government and all the other political parties."

Mr Schlüter said he expected that a new *modus vivendi* for Denmark's continued membership of the EC would be worked out by the government and all the eight political

parties in parliament at the latest during the first half of 1993, when Denmark is due to hold the six-month rotating presidency of the EC.

In London, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, told John Major that his government would issue a white paper outlining Denmark's future choices in October and hope for an outline agreement with its EC partners by the time of the Edinburgh summit in early December. He said that any referendum in Denmark would have to be held on a "totally new basis" from the June 2 referendum.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen told a Danish newspaper yesterday

that he accepted that the treaty might be rewritten to allow Denmark to opt out of parts of the text which were especially unpopular with the Danes. "I don't think that the others will renegotiate," he said. "It's very possible that the solution will be Maastricht plus some protocols." But even negotiation with fresh protocols will be fraught with political and diplomatic difficulty since legal experts believe that the addition of any protocol is technically a reopening and renegotiation of the treaty.

The Danish government's white paper will form the basis for discussions between the Conservative-Liberal minority government and the opposi-

tion on a proposal to be presented to Denmark's EC partners. Even if all the other EC states ratify Maastricht, the Danish position is not expected to be sorted out until next summer, with the Danish electorate having the final word.

Meanwhile, the domestic debate on Denmark's future role in Europe rages on, with three possible paths of action outlined by Nikolaj Petersen, professor of political science at Aarhus University.

□ "Maastricht with roses": a footnote to the treaty by which Denmark would opt out of those parts which the electorate opposes most, such as joint defence policy, economic and

monetary union and police and legal co-operation.

□ "Maastricht without thorns": the adoption of protocols allowing Denmark special status within the European union; and □ an Efta-style "whiff of Maastricht" association arrangement with the new EC. As the first two scenarios would probably lead to a two-tier EC, likely to be opposed by Denmark's EC partners and the Danish electorate, associate membership of the Community is seen as Denmark's only realistic option.

Major's defence, page 1
Leading article and
Letters, page 11

Banker urges EC to give Eastern Europe better trade deals

By GEORGE BROCK

THE European Community should scrap and then renegotiate its trade deals with Eastern Europe before the existing ungenerous agreements ruin those economies, the head of Europe's reconstruction bank urged yesterday.

Jacques Attali, president of the London-based European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, told a confer-

ence organised by the British government to mark its EC presidency that "the attitude of the European Community towards the nations of Central and Eastern Europe must change". He said that the Community's approach to its eastern neighbours appeared designed to "restrict their access to key Western markets rather than to integrate them". EC governments, he said, sometimes saw the struggling economies of the East as rivals rather than future partners in need of help.

M Attali, for many years an adviser to President Mitterrand, said that the EC should ratify the Maastricht treaty and then immediately establish a "continental common market" throughout Europe by abolishing all national trade barriers. "As the first step in that process, I would like to propose that the existing EC association agreements (with Eastern Europe) be renegotiated on better and more open terms, treating Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland — and any other countries willing and able to join in — as future equal members of an economic community rather than competitors to be kept out."

The EC recently closed its borders to certain types of Czech steel. M Attali attacked this decision, pointing out that the Community was only allowing Czechoslovakia to export steel amounting to 1 per cent of the entire EC market.

Meanwhile, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, obliquely criti-

cised John Major's speech to the conference by stressing the importance of EC law. Mr Major singled out for special mention sections of the Maastricht treaty which develop intergovernmental co-operation beyond the reach of the EC's court. M Delors said that the EC's history showed that "without strong institutions, the will to co-operate is by itself not sufficient".

In one of the conference's more striking speeches, M Attali predicted that Europe would "decline into a morass of conflict and chaos" if Maastricht is not ratified. Western Europe, he said, would not be strong enough without the political integration prescribed by the treaty to withstand the strains likely to be caused by economic misery and ethnic tensions in the east.

"If Europe does not move forward," he said, "it can only retreat. If we cannot bring ourselves to ratify this treaty, if we withdraw into ourselves and once again the trumpets of nationalism are heard in Western Europe, it would be a disaster for the 12."

● Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, under attack for lack of leadership over the country's unification problems, yesterday invited political, business and trade union leaders to work together on a "solidarity pact" (Ian Murray writes).

Herr Kohl, who is expected to break his summer-long silence with a "state of the German nation" speech to the Bundestag tomorrow, has asked experts to prepare details for the pact, which he wants signed "as soon as possible". Herr Kohl's new found urgency comes as criticism grows over his failure so far to speak out strongly against the wave of violence against foreigners and over his dithering about how to raise the money needed to rebuild the economy in the east.

The press, from the right-wing populist *Bild* to the left-of-centre *Frankfurter Rundschau*, is telling Herr Kohl that he should show leadership or resign, while polls point to growing support for a grand coalition as the only government capable of pulling the two Germanys together.

While Bonn politicians argue over the details of funds needed in the east, hoodlums in both east and west continue to attack foreigners' hotels. Even with the police on full alert all over the country, it is proving impossible to provide constant protection for all the thousands of hostels, and rioters are seeking out those that are unguarded. Two Vietnamese women and seven German children in Halle had to be treated in hospital early yesterday morning after 20 youths set fire to two hostels in the city.



Lion's pride: John Major addressing the European Community presidency conference in London yesterday where he reaffirmed Britain's commitment to the Maastricht treaty on European union

Confident 'Yes' camp targets the waverers

By CHARLES BREMNER

THE campaign for the referendum on the Maastricht treaty officially opened in France yesterday with politicians on the "Yes" side confident that the country would calmly approve the step to greater European union.

Postmen began delivering copies of the 72-page text to the country's 38 million voters, and television viewers were subjected to the first of a stream of party political broadcasts aimed at wooing the 30

or 40 per cent of the electorate who say they are undecided or plan to abstain. A new poll by the CSA organisation found that, of those who planned to

FRANCE

vote on September 20, 54 per cent favoured the treaty and 46 per cent opposed it. But the survey, published by *Le Parisien*, said 34 per cent would abstain.

The surge of "Yes" sentiment has prompted politicians to start taking positions for the aftermath of approval. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the leader of the opposition centrist UDF group and a vocal pro-European, said in a newspaper interview that if the opposition won next year's legislative elections he would seek negotiations on defining the respective authorities of the Community and member states.

Anti-Maastricht politicians

of right and left sought to regain the momentum they achieved in August, emphasising that their approach to Europe was constructive. Dissidents in the Socialist Party joined with the Communists to complain of a "wave of propaganda" depicting them as negative and reactionary. "Our 'No' will be a 'No' of hope for restoring European construction," said Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Socialist dissidents' leader.

completion of the single market by the end of the year, future financing, strengthening of links with Eastern and central Europe, preparation for EC enlargement and a successful outcome to the Gatt talks. Britain was accused of wanting no more than a free trade area in Europe. But that area was the essential ingredient of European unity which had the Swedes and Finns, the Swiss, the Austrians and the Eastern Europeans wanting to join. Last year 57 per cent of Britain's exports had gone to EC member nations.

The Community had been the answer to destructive nationalism. Freedom of movement had replaced frontier disputes. But the founders of the Community had underestimated the durability of national self-interest, national identity and national pride. "Many European citizens fear for national self-identity. Will it be lost? Will their domestic interests be subordinated? Will they forever face frustrating restrictions?"

The debate had been evident in Denmark and France. "It flourishes in the UK: there are instincts rooted here deep in the blood: they are not to be swept away by rhetoric about growth or slogans about unity. The Community must show that these fears are phantoms. To do so it must recognise and build on national identity and national pride, not appear to ride roughshod over them."

No nation's identity would be lost. Democratic consent was the core of the Treaty of Rome with its talk of "ever closer union among the peoples of Europe". That implied not federation but conciliation and consent. Economic and monetary changes had to reflect real changes in economic behaviour in the market place and must work with the grain of the market. "That is what the ERM does and will continue successfully to do, whatever happens to the Maastricht treaty."

There was tension on defence between countries which wanted a common EC defence, and those like Britain who believed we had a common defence of Europe already in Nato. An important development at Maastricht was the agreement that the Community should only do those things which could do better than at the level of member states. "That implies scrapping some existing, overbearing legislation as well as avoiding new, unnecessary regulation" making a "living concept" of subsidiarity.

The other significant development was the acknowledgement "that we can act together in unison without necessarily acting within the framework of community law."

Unemployed thrust into front line

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

BRITAIN'S efforts to help ease the political strains of rising unemployment in Eastern Europe were reaffirmed yesterday by the arrival in Poland of Michael Forsyth, the employment minister, who is also due to tour Bulgaria.

Advice on unemployment, such as how to set up and computerise job centres, retraining and counselling schemes, has become one of the key elements of British assistance. The emergence of unemployment as a potent destabiliser in post-communist societies has become clear, especially in eastern Germany. When refugees are housed in towns of concentrated unemployment, they are seen as a threat.

In Rostock the unemployment rate is 13 per cent, in Lichtenhagen 17 per cent. The rate when floating and casual workers are taken into account is probably twice as high. The east Germans are unused to both foreigners and unemployment, and for extreme right-wing groups it is easy to blame foreigners for stealing jobs. The local government structure in eastern Germany, moreover, has little experience in managing budgets and slicing up scarce resources.

In Poland unemployment has reached 2.3 million, or about 13 per cent of the work force. Most forecasts suggest that the number will swell this winter and touch the three million mark. The shift from

no unemployment to mass unemployment in three years is profoundly unsettling in a society with no unemployment culture. In Poland and other East European states the newly unemployed reacted first with bafflement, then with hurt. Politically they have tended to withdraw from the system, partly explaining the very low turnout rates in the first free elections.

Now, however, the unemployed have been thrust into the frontline of politics. In Hungary and Slovakia they are helping to fuel nationalist parties. In the Czech Lands the unemployed helped to rescue the former Communist party, which retains a surprisingly strong position. In Poland the fear of unemployment in the largely unreformed state sector is one of the most volatile elements in the political equation.

British unemployment aid to Poland has concentrated on the Cracow region. Several dozen experts from the Department of Employment, with some of them living in Poland on a semi-permanent basis, have been advising on how to redeploy and retrain redundant workers from the nearby Nowa Huta steelworks. However, British techniques are not always exportable. The mobility of workers is constrained by the serious housing shortage.

La belle Elisabeth's charms fail to win the hearts of French farmers

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS



Elisabeth Guigou: they called her "Mitterrand's little calculator"

IF ONE image sticks from the French government's bungled summer campaign for Maastricht, it was of a solitary blonde, beautiful, haughty and dressed to kill, picking her way in stocking feet among the sunbathers of a Mediterranean beach, clutching her high heels. Television captured the image as Elisabeth Guigou, the minister for European affairs, was tramping the resorts on the orders of François Mitterrand, her president and patron, to "explain, explain, explain, convince, convince" the population over the merits of Maastricht.

By general consent, Madame Guigou, 46, is many things. *Le Monde* lists them: "Very beautiful, very clever, very hard working and very ambitious." British veterans of her formidable negotiating

skill testify to all of these. Friends call her shy, enemies call her one of "le président's girls", the group of female advisers whom he has later promoted to minister, and *Paris Match* dubbed her the Kim Basinger of the cabinet. Such constant references to her looks fail to do justice to her intellectual triumph in climbing to the top civil service ranks from a childhood as the daughter of a small olive and fruit canner in Marrakesh.

But whatever her qualities, as the spearhead of the government campaign for the hearts and minds of the public she could hardly have been a poorer choice. From the angle of an angry farmer or an anxious shopkeeper, she is everything they most fear and loathe about Maastricht: an icy Parisian technocrat with a superb command of detail and an apparent disdain for lesser and provincial minds. Stiff and always immaculate, Mme

Guigou, a fluent English speaker, is passionate about the benefits of Maastricht, a treaty whose groundwork she ably helped lay in five years work in European affairs. But her enthusiasm led her to play into the hands of her opponents by hurling insults at Philippe Séguin and the rest of the "demolition crew," as she called the critics of the treaty.

Mme Guigou's rise has strong parallels with that of M Séguin, the anti-Maastricht champion who became her nemesis this summer, scoring higher on the pollster's credibility league. Like him, she is a *piéd noir* of humble origin who made it to the Ecole Nationale de l'Administration, the breeding ground of the gilded technocracy. At 20, a year after continuing her studies in Montpellier, she married Jean-Louis Guigou, now director of the national land development authority.

Mme Guigou, a Socialist, caught M Mitterrand's eye in 1982 soon after stints as an attaché at the embassy in London and as an adviser to Jacques Delors, then finance minister. *Le Monde*, for whom sexism is no bar to intellectual rigour, noted last year that "no one could doubt" that her looks had attracted M Mitterrand's attention. As adviser for international monetary affairs at the Elysée palace, she is credited with initiating the unmathematical M Mitterrand into the arcane of the financial world. "Mitterrand's little calculator," *L'Express* wickedly called her.

In the later 1980s, she impressed with a deft performance as co-ordinator for European economic co-operation, an especially delicate job at the time of the "co-habitation" government of Jacques Chirac. She succeeded Edith Cresson as European affairs minister in 1990.

Threat to Muslims as Croats demand a slice of Sarajevo

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE people of Sarajevo were waiting nervously yesterday to see whether Croatian forces would join the Serbs in attacking the Bosnian capital.

On Sunday, Velimir Maric, the commander of Sarajevo's Croatian forces, demanded that the Bosnians cede control of six suburbs. "After the ultimatum expires (today), we will use all available means to liberate Croatian territories. That could imply a conflict," Mr Maric said.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, said a new resolution was being drafted that would commit more UN peacekeeping forces to Bosnia, where yesterday fighting continued, killing 26 people and wounding 170 in the 24 hours up to midday.

Bosnian Serb leaders have consistently demanded the partition of Sarajevo, like the rest of the republic, into Serb, Muslim and Croat areas. Bosnian Croats agree that the republic should be split into cantons. But Mr Maric's demand appears to be the first time that the Croats have threatened their nominal Bos-

nian allies. Mr Maric's demand for the six suburbs of Sarajevo was rejected outright by Mustafa Hajrulahovic, the commander of the city's Bosnian forces. "We have to live in one republic, which is unpartitioned," said Mr Hajrulahovic. "If they don't agree with that, we will fight until we liberate our territory."

Dr Boutros Ghali called yesterday for a strengthening of the UN role in Bosnia to rid the country of foreign troops and renew the flow of humanitarian aid.

Winding up a four-day visit to Russia, he said he would talk to senior UN officials in New York today about "concrete ways of reinforcing the presence of the United Nations... and humanitarian assistance."

He voiced confidence that UN relief flights to Sarajevo, interrupted by last week's crash of an Italian aid plane, would resume soon. "I believe we are still able to send humanitarian assistance through the airport of Sarajevo, and furthermore we are using roads so that we can bring humanitarian assistance to the city," Dr Boutros Ghali said.

He emphasised that the "basic principles" to emerge from the London conference on Yugoslavia had included respect for Bosnia's independence and territorial integrity.

"We are asking all foreign troops to withdraw from Bosnia," he said. The new resolution that was being drafted would provide for "observers on the borders to prevent any intervention from outside."

Food stocks in Sarajevo are likely to run out within three days if the UN is unable to send in more supplies to the besieged city, a UN official warned yesterday. Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said that existing land convoys to the Bosnian capital met only about one-third of immediate needs.

Dr Boutros Ghali has been received warmly in Moscow by President Yeltsin and his government, which has aligned itself with UN sanctions against Serbia. Russia has sent two warships to put pressure on Iraq. However, if the Russian nationalists who have threatened to impeach Mr Yeltsin ever gain power, one of their first moves would be to withdraw from, and possibly veto, any punitive action against the Serbs.

Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, meanwhile, will make their first trip to the Balkans later this week as co-chairmen of the new Yugoslavia peace conference, Fred Eckhard, their spokesman, said in Geneva.

In Sarajevo, firemen guarding every drop of precious water watched a school burn yesterday as UN peacekeepers sought to persuade Bosnia's warring factions to let engineers restore water supplies.

In Belgrade, the independent daily, *Borba*, claimed that on August 27 Bosnian Croat and Muslim political leaders signed an agreement in Ankara on the future of the state — which totally excluded Bosnian Serbs. In the past, the parties have talked of a future confederation of Croatia and Bosnia. Presidents Tudjman and Izetbegovic have talked loosely of a defence pact.

Muslims and Croats have been uneasy allies throughout the war. The Croats have tended towards a more moderate, pro-Sarajevo position. On July 3, after moderates lost a power struggle in the local Croatian party, Herzegovinian leaders proclaimed the foundation of their own state, with its capital in Mostar.

After the foundation of Herzeg-Bosnia, Bosnian leaders in Sarajevo protested that the republic had been stabbed in the back. Since then there have been several armed clashes between Bosnian Croat troops and predominantly Muslim forces. Many Muslims, suspicious that Croats and Serbs have made a deal to partition the republic, have now started to join the neo-fascist militia, known by its initials, HDZ.

L & T section, page 4



Time capsule: four Europeans entering a capsule in Cologne where they will stay for 60 days as part of a European Space Agency simulated space flight experiment, with only radio contact to the outside

Timisoara bishop defies 'injustice'

BY TIM JUDAH

GREETING a steady stream of visitors, Laszlo Tokes, 39, sits in the little room which opens on to his old church. His arrest there was the spark that ignited the Romanian revolution of Christmas 1989. "We got up here with a ladder when the Securitate broke down the doors."

The turbulent priest was deported to internal exile by President Ceausescu's secret police, but then the killing began. More than a thousand people died during the revolution, about 100 in Timisoara alone.

The full truth behind the events of December 1989 has never come out and none of the "terrorists" who carried out the killings has been brought to justice. Last Tuesday the now Bishop Tokes began a hunger strike to demand that the truth be told.

Many Romanians believe that President Iliescu himself had a hand in orchestrating the killings in order to help mask a coup as a genuine revolution, complete with martyrs. "Something must be done," said Bishop Tokes. "Talking is no longer enough. There have been too many injustices and illegalities, and so I have decided to do something radical to awaken the conscience of the people."

An offer by President Iliescu to talk has been withdrawn. "We made so many offers to talk before," said Bishop Tokes, "and they never were answered. This offer has minimal credibility. He has made it just because of electoral considerations."

Bishop Tokes denies that he started his hunger strike because Romania is in the throes of its second post-revolution general election campaign, but admits that he hopes his actions will indirectly influence the outcome.

His diheard opposition to former Communists, like President Iliescu, remaining in power is a popular message in Timisoara, a bastion of the Romanian opposition. But nationalists and supporters of President Iliescu have moved

quickly to try to denigrate the bishop and to contain his message.

"There is no doubt that he is a CIA agent and probably the agent of other intelligence services as well," said Florica Ciucu, the Timisoara campaign manager of President Iliescu's party.

Soon after the 1989 revolution Laszlo Tokes lost the support of many Romanians as they came to believe that he was a headline Hungarian nationalist dedicated to restoring Transylvania to Hungary. He denies this and talks of the suffering of all Romanians. At least in Timisoara, this is a message that is believed.

But Bishop Tokes, as honorary president of the powerful Democratic Union of Romanians Hungarians, also plays an important role in the party. While it enters the elections as



Bishop Tokes: hunger strike for the truth

one party, there are indications that the strains within the union may lead to a split — just as Romania's post-revolutionary National Salvation Front has divided. If Yugoslav-style violence is avoided in Transylvania, the formations that emerge will certainly make for interesting alliances.

Radical Hungarians favour the reunification of former Soviet Moldavia with Romania. This way, they believe, a federal state will have to emerge, giving Hungarians real political power in parts of Transylvania.

Man given baboon's liver dies

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE FIRST person to undergo a animal-to-human liver transplant has died in a Pittsburgh hospital, ten weeks after his liver was replaced with that of a baboon.

The 35-year-old man, who has not been named at his request, died late on Sunday night as doctors at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre tried to wean him from a respirator after he had suffered a stroke. A spokesman said the cause of the stroke was unknown, but that serious neurological complications occur in about 10 per cent of all transplants.

"We still don't have all the information," he said. "We'll know more in the next couple of days." Doctors believe that the man may have developed an infection after a diagnostic X-ray. An autopsy was underway yesterday.

The initial 11-hour operation on June 28 was successful, and in less than a month the patient was eating solids, walking around and watching television. The transplanted baboon liver had tripled in size as doctors had hoped. A threat of rejection in mid-July was controlled using steroids, but the man's condition worsened in late August after he developed a fever.

Doctors said he appeared to be recovering again when he suffered the stroke. One surgeon said: "He was wide awake this morning and we were working to get him off the respirator."

The man's liver had been destroyed by hepatitis B, which would also have destroyed any transplanted human liver, and the baboon's liver was used because the animal is thought to be immune to the virus.

Election now Clinton's to lose in the final straight

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IT WAS Labour day in the United States yesterday, the traditional end-of-summer start of the final eight-week stretch of the presidential election, and the candidates' holiday weekends were packed with photogenic all-American activities.

President Bush did the annual four-mile walk across the bridge linking Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas, attended a Chicago Polish festival, and pitched at a Kentucky baseball game. For once, his ball actually reached the hitter.

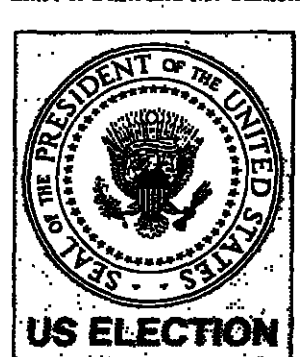
Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate, paid homage in Harry Truman's home town of Independence, Missouri, revealing that in 1948 Mr Bush had voted against the "give 'em hell" president, whom he was now upholding as his model. Mr Clinton also went stock-car racing in South Carolina, the sacred sport of those blue-collar white Southerners whose votes have determined elections since 1960.

Mr Clinton preferred racing to a season-opening football game, said his spokeswoman, because these people are the football. Incredible as it may once have seemed, the election is now Mr Clinton's to lose. He leads in every opinion poll, and is winning among suburbanites who will comprise a majority of the electorate this year. 45 per cent say that they will never back Mr Bush. Most important, Mr Clinton has much the stronger base in the electoral college.

To win the White House on November 3, Mr Clinton, the governor of Arkansas, needs 270 electoral college votes. The ten states that the previous Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis won in 1988, plus California, where he is way ahead, plus Arkan-

sas and his running mate Al Gore's Tennessee give him 177. By contrast, Mr Bush can count on only 171 even if — and it is a big if — he secures Texas and Florida.

An analysis by David Broder, psephologist for *The Washington Post*, suggests that Mr Bush and Mr Clinton



will split the Southern battleground of North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana and Kentucky, and the next president will be the winner in those seven states with 120 votes stretching from Missouri to New Jersey via Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Four of them gave Mr Bush his narrowest 1988 victories, and their economies have soured since.

Battle strategies have also crystallised. Mr Clinton has failed to propound any forceful new philosophy worthy of an "ism", but constantly reiterates that 12 years of failed Republican "trickle down" economics must be replaced by "invest-and-educate-and-train economics".

Mr Clinton's campaign was boosted last week by dismal poverty, income and unemployment statistics, and the publication of the final pre-election unemployment figures in early October could have an enormous impact.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tajikistan president resigns

Moscow: President Nabiyev, a hardline former communist whose career flourished during the Brezhnev era, was forced to resign yesterday, just over a year after making his comeback in Tajikistan, the poorest of the former Soviet republics (Bruce Clark writes).

His resignation, after a brief fight with opposition forces who surrounded him at Dushanbe airport, follows hundreds of deaths in the south of the country, near the border with Afghanistan, in clashes between his supporters and opponents. Mr Nabiyev had intended to fly to the separatist region of Leninabad, where many inhabitants are ethnic Uzbeks.

Tanks and armoured cars were deployed to protect the president, 61, as he conducted negotiations with parliamentary leaders at the airport and agreed to step down. A crowd of about 1,000 cheered as he was driven away.

The departure of Mr Nabiyev will be welcomed by a broad coalition of adversaries, ranging from secular liberals to the Muslim hierarchy. However, the news is likely to be greeted with dismay in Moscow, where President Yeltsin and the Russian army command have seen Mr Nabiyev as a bulwark against the infiltration of fighters and weapons from Afghanistan.

Three hanged

Kabul: Afghanistan's government hanged three men in front of thousands in its most dramatic implementation of Islamic law since it came to power in April. They had confessed to murder, looting and robbery. (Reuter)

Shias lead

Beirut: Initial results of the final phase of parliamentary elections in Lebanon showed advances by candidates of the Shia Muslim Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah. The official results are expected early today.

Korean pact

Seoul: North and South Korea agreed at the border village of Panmunjom the final details of a pact on cross-border economic exchanges, laying the framework for trade between the two ideological foes. (Reuter)

Monitors go

Baghdad: A UN nuclear inspection team left Iraq having agreed a plan to watch whether Baghdad is reviving its nuclear programme by monitoring rivers, lakes and canals for radioactivity. (Reuter)

Escape fails

Beirut: Four prisoners escaped from a prison in Israel's south Lebanon "security zone", but militiamen captured two who strayed into a minefield where one was injured. (Reuter)

Lovers leap

Sierning: An Austrian couple making love in a car on a bank forgot to apply the handbrake and the car rolled 60ft into the river. The husband kicked out the windscreen and he and his wife swam to safety. (Reuter)

Russia's freedom-drugged youth revels in 'Assid Khaus'

THE beat is rapid and mesmerising and so deep and loud that it soon has the innards pulsating in time. The musical dog's dinner of techno-hip hop-scratch-nix, with dollops of classical and African influence thrown in, produces disorientation followed by intense excitement — an effect heightened by the green and purple lasers. The dancing is uninhibited and as frenzied as an aerobics class attached to long-life batteries. Dress is optional with sloppy jeans and T-shirts mixing with lycra cycling shorts, leather minidresses and outsized platform shoes.

Rave culture, which swept Britain and America in the past two years, has arrived in St Petersburg, which is embracing *Assid Khaus* with enthusiasm as the city returns to its pre-revolutionary

role as the haunt of Russian hedonism. Home to a thriving sub-culture, even in the dreary Brezhnev years, followed by a flowering of the avant-garde under the Gorbachev era, the city's youth has been quick to latch on to the new imported fad.

The records, laser lights and sound equipment are all imported, but the venues are so exotic that they would make the ravers of London and Manchester turn psychic. The dancing is uninhibited and as frenzied as an aerobics class attached to long-life batteries. Dress is optional with sloppy jeans and T-shirts mixing with lycra cycling shorts, leather minidresses and outsized platform shoes.

St Petersburg, once elegant and stylish, has been quick to embrace rave culture, the latest imported Western fad. Anne McElvoy reports

here) a ticket, the parties are way outside the means of most youngsters. They hang around outside listening intently to the thuds and whoops from within and begging those leaving to pass on their entry ticket for a few hundred roubles. But in these days of nascent capitalism there are enough hard-earned to keep the parties throbbing. The new rich travel from Moscow especially for a Saturday night out in "Piter". St Petersburg's night life ranks as more exciting than the capital's.

Sergei Bugayev, 25, an artist, started organising the parties after he had tried out acid house himself in New York and London, courtesy of the hard-currency profits from his paintings. "After the upheavals of the last year, young people want something totally different from the old ways," he said. "They are no longer content with vodka-soaked evenings at tedious discos in grubby halls. They want style and glitz and a total escape from reality."

Escapism is the key to acid house's success in the West, and it is even more potent a force in Russia where young and old are seeking ways to flee the near-anarchy of the present and

the painful memories of the past. "When I dance for hours with just the lights and the beat for company, I forget where I am, where I come from and what I'll have to face tomorrow," said Misha, sporting leather shorts and Doc Marten boots. "Spending so much money at one go just adds to the exhilaration. My parents would faint if they knew, but I'm sick of all this typically Soviet boarding. I want to live now like a citizen of the world, not like a poor little Russian kid."

A small army of police is parked outside, but they take no interest in the events within. While St Petersburg's youth is enjoying laughing on to the traditions of 19th-century anarchy, they are spared the harsh treatment by the tsarist authorities in the 1890s violent clashes between students and the

police were a frequent occurrence.

There are enough beatific smiles and starry eyes around to attest the presence of those substances which, until not so long ago, were deemed "products of capitalist decadence". There is no shortage of marijuana in underground circles here, and young people have long experience with the mushrooms which grow in Russian meadows. Only the seriously rich can afford LSD or Ecstasy imported from the West. This furnishes the parties with a twist on the familiar Russian theme of shortages — acid house without the acid. Not that the revelers seem to care. "I don't need Ecstasy, even if I could afford it," said Misha. "I get high on music and the atmosphere: freedom is my drug."

STATE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

ELECTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1992

How to Vote in Person

If you are travelling throughout Europe, Asia or the United States, you may vote at a Postal Voting Centre at selected Australian Embassies.

For the nearest Postal Voting Centre, telephone Miss Edwina Adams, Victoria House, London, or enquire at any Australian Embassy.

In the UK, you may vote in person during weekdays between 9.30am, and 4.30pm at Victoria House, until 4.30pm on Thursday, October 1, 1992.

How to Vote by Post

You may apply for postal voting material to be sent to an address nominated by you. Application are available from Victoria House.

Election Day, Saturday, October 3, 1992

Please note that there will be no voting facilities at Victoria House on Saturday, October 3. Voting, either by post or in person at Victoria House, London will close at 4.30pm on Thursday, October 1, 1992.

Electoral Roll Enquiries

The roll for the 1992 State Election closed on August 28, 1992. Victorian electors may make enquiries in person regarding their enrolment at Victoria House.

Australian Embassies will not be able to answer enquiries regarding enrolment for the 1992 Victorian Election. All enquiries should be made to Miss Edwina Adams.

G Ruffie
Postal Voting Officer
London

Victoria House
Melbourne Place
Strand
London WC2B 4LG
Tel: 071 836 2656

Woodrow Wyatt

Italy is being ruined by the evil of corruption

For decades I have stayed in Italy every year. I have watched the North becoming richer and seen enterprising work-seekers from the South arrive in Milan to lift themselves from poverty. A burst of post-war enthusiasm made businesses large and small flourish. Cars abounded and new housing shot up everywhere in the North, including hamlets and villages. Italy seemed set for riches on secure foundations. Much of the impetus came from having no effective government: for nearly fifty years there have been patched up coalitions in Rome, with the same figures and parties swapping places in them. Lack of strong government caused feeble enforcement of tax collection (always strenuously resisted by Italians) and at least 30 per cent of the economy was energetically powered by the black market. To the general benefit.

Now the Italian miracle has sunk. Participating in tax dodges is a short step from accepting corruption at every level of officialdom and from inertia in halting the ever advancing rampages of organised crime, as the Mafia is euphemistically described. The coalitions, which were first formed to keep the once-strong Communists out of government, had to please the socialist demands, so pensions were far too generous, as was spending on public health. The growth of the appallingly inefficient civil service could not be checked. The sprawling, loss-making nationalised industries — another great source of corruption — could not be privatised. There are attempts to do so now.

Italy is in desperate financial trouble as its vast public indebtedness swells. There is no chance of ever meeting the EC convergence rules required for the establishment of a common currency and central bank. Last week Italy had to raise interest rates by 1.75 per cent to 15 per cent, doubling its industry further. Great firms like Fiat, Pirelli and Olivetti are sliding because EC competition rules slice away large chunks of their home market through the arrival of cheaper goods.

The Craxi Socialists, led by Bettino Craxi, once apparently one of the more able prime ministers, are bathed in financial scandal. During their 15-year rule of Milan they engaged in the jolly practice of *tangenti*, a system smothering Italy. Contractors seeking public contracts must add 10 per cent or more to the cost of a project. This goes to all political parties and to politicians personally. Signor Craxi is striving his utmost to prevent the prosecution of those involved in Milan, who include his cronies, his son and his brother-in-law.

In the poor South, a huge programme of reconstruction started after the 1980 earthquakes. During the last 11 years it has cost taxpayers some £30 billion. *Tangenti* has diverted £3 billion to all connected, down to site workers. Bureaucrats eagerly follow the example of their political masters. To get the slightest payment or service to which he is entitled, the ordinary citizen must give the official concerned a bribe in an envelope.

Only the magistrates, and to a large degree the police, stand apart from the sea of corruption. After the last election, weeks passed without a government as the shape of the new coalition was argued. The magistrates vigorously instituted prosecutions despite the threats of murder, which are often carried out. Later, the implicated politicians anxiously tried to stop the prosecutions, mindful of their links with the Mafia, which controls many votes in return for favours. Proportional representation prevents strong government, but the politicians will not vote against it because they would lose their seats and their ill-gotten perks.

I have never talked to so many ordinary people so furious at the corruption ruining Italy as I did in August. Though themselves unavoidably to some extent caught up in the evil system, they long to end it. One able young industrialist told me he thinks the only solution is rule by Germany through Brussels. He is far from alone. Most Italians pray that Maastricht will quickly lead to Brussels governing a United States of Europe. They are terrified that a French No vote might delay the loss of their corrupted national identity. Their faith in clean government by Brussels is not dulled by their being the greatest fraudsters in the Common Agricultural Policy. But there is no reason why Italy ruled more or less directly by Brussels would be less prone to the onward surge of corruption, Mafia terrorism and blackmail. All the young I spoke to are in despair. I left Italy sharing their gloom.

The sale of sophisticated electronic bugging devices should be strictly controlled, says Janet Daley

An invitation to snoop

When I was about ten years old, I discovered my father's old short-wave radio in the back of a cupboard, and for a while I was mesmerised by conversations between ham radio operators and ships' pilots. Before very long this entertainment palled, being largely inaudible and notably lacking in dramatic plot. But even the banal exchanges of cab drivers had an appeal, because I was listening to conversations which were not meant to be overheard. Fortunately, there was nothing more compelling than traffic information, or I might have developed an unwholesome predilection. The satisfactions of eavesdropping may be mysterious, but the universal interest in other people's private exchanges seems to be unextinguishable and inexhaustible.

For reasons which will be obvious to any reader of British newspapers, there has been much discussion recently about just how far this curiosity about other people's activities should be indulged. Not only have certain public figures had their lives turned inside out by this in-

satiable hunger, but certain other people are making a great deal of money out of pandering to it. And the technology of those who pursue serious riches in this line has come a long way from our old wartime short-wave radio. Indeed, the techniques of electronic eavesdropping have become so advanced that it is now almost impossible to protect oneself against those who are determined to overhear whatever they wish. There are bugs that can pick up a whisper through walls and buildings. There are receivers so small they can be concealed in pens and earrings. There is telephone interception equipment which is virtually invisible. Even the classic spy thriller technique of holding conversations in the street is no guarantee of confidentiality, since there are directional microphones which can pick up specific voices and relay them to

receivers across great distances. Not only can your exchanges be heard, but, thanks to the microchip, they can be recorded by bits of apparatus so small as to be effectively undetectable. And there is nothing illegal about selling or owning any of these sinister toys. Using them in the specialised sense that one is broadcasting on the airwaves without permission. And the law which forbids unregulated transmissions (the 1949 Wireless Telegraphy Act) is now thought by many to be outdated. If certain legislative reformers get their way, even this check may be removed, allowing a free-for-all for the electronic spying man.

Ructions over royal indiscretions and political scandal have stirred up discontent with the present legal arrangements about invasion of privacy, but the solution being proposed seems very curious. Instead of banning

the unregulated sale (and/or unlicensed ownership) of bugging devices — which is to say controlling the distribution of particular commodities — concerned MPs seem more interested in the far more difficult area of controlling the behaviour of people. Rather than prohibiting the open sale of equipment which can have no innocent purpose, thereby severely limiting the scope of the professional privacy-investigators, legislators are wading into the more dangerous waters of limiting a free press. Arguing that any attempt to regulate the use of a pernicious technology is doomed to failure because one cannot fight technical progress, politicians such as Sir John Wheeler, the Conservative former chairman of the home affairs committee, concentrate their fire on the much more vague and legally problematic notion of motive. Anyone who

records a private conversation with the intention of profiting from sale of the material would be penalised, and even then what he did would not be a criminal offence but a civil one. This means that only the well-off and well-informed would be inclined to make use of the law, as is now the case with libel. Sir John and those who agree with his approach apparently feel that the very existence of a new invention entails the right to sell it indiscriminately, and that it is futile to attempt to limit its availability. Would they apply this principle to sub-machine guns or ground-to-air missiles too? Merely, we manage to restrict the sale of even ordinary guns in Britain. If I am prevented from owning a pistol without a licence — and a very good explanation of why I need one — why should I not be obliged to justify a legal permit for a bug? We may not want to

ban such equipment altogether; it may, just, have some plausible uses which are not malicious, but surely we can impose some legal supervision so that sale and ownership of such equipment is always publicly registered? To make the unauthorised recording of private material an offence only if it is subsequently sold misses one of the most evil uses of spying. Under such a law, the would-be blackmailer who holds damaging evidence and demands payment not to publish could not be prosecuted for invasion of privacy because he would not have made the sale which would constitute the crime. But any law which made it a crime simply to record without permission would be largely unenforceable, as well as being open to abuse. How much more sensible to ban the unrestricted sale of these nasty playthings. Those who think that this would be an unacceptable limitation of freedom should remember that it is totalitarian societies, not free ones, which have traditionally encouraged people to spy on one another.

The hangover after the party

Mark Almond on the immense cost of fusing Germany's two halves



Social unrest at home: grand visions of a federal Europe are fading as Germans have to foot the bill for reunification

Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, assured the EC finance ministers in Bath at the weekend that Germany would not raise interest rates for the foreseeable future. But behind his smile he must be worried. Each fresh set of statistics brings worse news about the German economy, which is sliding into recession.

It is not only Germany's European partners who are clamouring for a cut in German interest rates. German businessmen are increasingly crying out against the Bundesbank's tight-money policy. Yet Dr Schlesinger knows that the biggest borrower in Germany is also the least likely to produce any return on capital: the German state is mired in debt. It is Germany's growing economic difficulties and the sense of a government floundering in the face of unparalleled but interconnected economic and social problems that makes official German support for Maastricht so unreal.

Of course, in public, all German government leaders and members of the board of the Bundesbank are still going through the motions of encouraging a French Yes, but apart from Chancellor Kohl, few believe the Euro-rhetoric they mouth. Helmut Kohl is such a convinced believer in European federal union that he is prepared even to overlook his French allies' use of the German bogey to promote Maastricht, a tactic which most Germans resent.

It was the unexpected achievement of Herr Kohl's other life-long political goal — German reunification — that undermined German support for the Maastricht process. The apparently endless drain of cash into the economic quagmire which was East Germany has taken back the West Germans. Long gone is that confident dawn when it was asserted that East German rust-belt towns would blossom within five years into the affluence of the Ruhr. New taxes and investment surcharges are constantly being

discussed as the government in Bonn wrestles with the prospect of spending sums over the next ten years which will be equivalent to the annual United States federal deficit, although the population is less than a fifth of that of the United States. West Germans fear that reunification has shackled their much vaunted prosperity to an economic corpse, and that the costs of the economic and social cohesion for the poorer parts of the European Community will have to be borne by them too. Visitors to East Germany see

the simulacrum of a boom: to consume the West German taxpayers' largesse to their eastern brothers, car showrooms and new hypermarkets have sprung up in garishly-coloured prefabrications all over Erich Honecker's grey paradise. But as the riots across the former GDR have shown social cohesion is not the product of subsidy. Unemployed and short-time workers resent sharing their social security with foreign asylum-seekers, but West Germans are increasingly coming to resent both groups. When the Berlin Wall fell,

Willy Brandt proudly proclaimed that "what belongs together" is growing together again, but the experience of German reunification has shown how traumatic a process state-building is. Despite a common language and history, separated only by 45 years of division, the two halves of Germany have yet to fuse into healthy whole. In 1989, the West German economy was already teetering on the brink of recession, but Chancellor Kohl's plunge in the East briefly held back the downturn, as East

Germans rushed to spend their brand new banknotes on cars and fridges. That demand is now sated, and Germany has woken up to find itself in a worldwide recession with a mighty inflationary hangover. The Bundesbank has fought hard to recover its reputation for financial probity, but Germans know that no central bank can resist political pressure to print money if that is what the politicians are set on. They saw how Herr Schlesinger's formidable predecessor, Karl-Otto Pöhl, gave up the fight to protect the

Bundesbank's virtue in the summer of 1990. Community finance ministers may assure us all that the proposed European central bank will be independent of political control by imprudent political masters, but West Germans have not forgotten that 1990 capitulation. If the prudent bankers of Frankfurt felt obliged to relax monetary discipline at the politicians' behest to promote the social cohesion of a reunited Germany, how much easier will it be to pressurise the directors of a European central bank to print money in order to realise the European ideal.

With the world short of capital, the costs of German reunification put a huge burden on us all. At first, high interest rates to rein in German inflation made matters worse only for Germany's stagnating partners, but now they are also killing the geese which used to lay golden eggs at home. The underlying inflationary pressure caused by Bonn's policy towards the East remains, but the Bundesbank's attempts to keep the lid on it are promoting a rapid rise in West German bankruptcies and unemployment. The consequences of the strong mark in a world recession are increasingly severe, and the political fall-out could well topple Chancellor Kohl. German reunification is irreversible, however costly, but few German tears will be shed if European union stalls. Paradoxically, the much prophesied flight to the mark if the French vote No could make it easier for the Bundesbank to cut domestic interest rates without much inflationary effect. Officially, no doubt, Dr Schlesinger would have to look suitably distressed, but behind his funeral features at a French rejection of Maastricht, a real smile might lurk at last. Certainly, fewer and fewer of his countrymen will be able to disguise their relief. The author is a fellow of the Institute for European Defence & Strategic Studies, London.



...and moreover PETER BARNARD

I was confused but I am all right now. I have read the Sunday newspaper report which says that a business is going bust in Britain every six minutes. On Sunday night I saw the AA television commercial, which said that the AA was getting someone to stay every eight seconds. So now I am clear as to what needs to be done about the economy, which is a relief because I spent Saturday on a needless diversion, wondering if Norman Lamont could beat Newcastle United.

My wife started it. She returned from a trip into Bath complaining about the traffic therein. I said ah yes, it is that man Lamont and his friends from across the Channel plus all their hangers-on and flunkies and "theraps" as they are amusingly called, that I said will be the cause of it. No, she said, it is the football, it is Bristol Rovers who for some reason play their matches at Bath. They are having a home match against some foreign team, called Newcastle United. There are a lot of policemen escorting people along the pavements "twixt train station and football stadium. The people are spilling into the road and chanting a mantra, she said, they are all drunk and unwashed. They are football supporters.

No, I said, that will be Chancellor Lamont. Are you sure, said my wife, they looked a mite scruffy to me, for finance ministers, and those that were not reeling along the pavement were seated in old Cortinas which had flags tied to their aerials. Flags, I said, well

there you are. And the Cortinas are part of the security, such limousines as you saw will have contained that Kevin Keegan and his friends from Newcastle. And was there not a Cortina with "Norman and Rosemary" emblazoned upon the windscreen? She thought there very possibly was, it rang a bell did that. There you are then, I said, I expect "Chancellor" would have been banned on security grounds.

I looked up the attendance: 7,487. That is about par for the Euro conference course, and certainly far larger than anything Bristol Rovers could hope to attract. But the clincher was the mantra, which after some prompting my wife recalled exactly: "We'll do whatever's necessary / We'll do whatever's necessary / Ee-aye-addio / We'll do whatever's necessary."

People all over Bath are humming it this morning, I daresay. It is a variation on an old football mantra, from the brief golden era between *Abide With Me* and the present fashion for tuneless baying. Of course Chancellor Lamont's team, Eorfin, will get around to tuneless baying eventually, but on Saturday they struck to as tuneless a melody as could be mustered by a bunch of dangerous lunatics who might at any moment start smashing shop windows in order to dampen down economic activity.

Not that there is any, I calculate that in the time Lamont et al spent swaying on the terraces, as many as 3,941 businesses folded up, although I am not clear whether one every six minutes is

a calculation based on 24 hours in a day or on normal opening hours. This is a crucial difference: on the latter basis, you could lose 240 petrol stations in a day as against about three post offices and half a bank. Unless, of course, you called in the AA. My advice, Chancellor and his friends is stop travelling about in old Cortinas. Yellow vans, that is what they need. A business person looks at his turnover and calculates that in six minutes he will go bust. He rings an 0800 number. A girl takes down his name, address and VAT registration number. The girl calls Oscar Tango Bravo Delta, behind the wheel of which is none other than Chancellor Lamont wearing yellow oilskins. The girl calls the businessman, telling him to wait by his business and on no account try to re-start it himself.

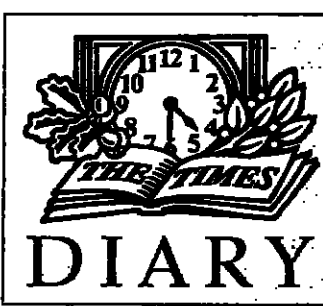
Chancellor arrives, what a sight for sore eyes! He tinkers about under the counter, sucking his teeth and humming "We'll do whatever's necessary" under his breath. To the businessman, an age passes, but in fact Chancellor has diagnosed the problem in two seconds, leaving him six to put it right and get to the next breakdown. He pops his head out and wipes his hands on an old ecu. "Yer cash flow," he pronounces. "It's knackered." He produces a can of £20 notes and pours it into the till. He salutes, he leaves to the sound of fearful joy emitting from businessman and starving stockroom. He has left a card. It says: You'll never walk alone.

Message in a bottle: No

SUE LAWLEY, it seems, has still not been forgiven by Baroness Thatcher for presiding over one of the most tempestuous moments of her three victorious election campaigns. Attempts by the BBC to woo Lady Thatcher back on to *Desert Island Discs* for a second appearance have come to nothing and her horror at the prospect of being interviewed again by Lawley, the last person with whom the former prime minister would choose to be marooned, is believed to be the reason.

The BBC is anxious to add Lady Thatcher to the small list of those who have been castaways twice. The programme-makers believe there would be enormous interest in a second broadcast, particularly if it were to coincide with the publication of her memoirs. "The whole Western world would want to listen," says a BBC official.

Lady Thatcher last appeared on the programme in 1978 when she was given a gentle time by the avuncular Roy Plomley. An appearance with Lawley would be far



more spirited, for it was she who chaired questions from viewers on the BBC's *Newsnight* in May 1983, when Thatcher was put on the spot by Diana Gould, a part-time Cirencester teacher, who accused the prime minister of deliberately ordering the sinking of the Belgrano when the ship was sailing away from the Falklands.

Lawley repeatedly urged her to answer Gould's questions, and the press reported that an ordinary housewife had succeeded where Thatcher's professional political rivals had failed. Gould even managed to write a book about the experience, which Lady Thatcher has never forgotten. A BBC source says: "We will keep trying, but we don't think we will get her unless we agree to change the presenter. And that is not on."

Rambler strays

VANDALS have struck at St Clement's church in the Strand, but not, as might have been expected, at the controversial monument to Bomber Harris, but to deprive poor old Samuel Johnson of his reading matter. Someone has pinched the book which the bronze statue has spent the past 92 years happily reading.

The theft has deeply upset members of the Johnson Society and regulars at the church where Johnson used to worship, and an appeal

is being contemplated to raise the money to replace the book. Brian Poag, the assistant vergor, says: "It is inexplicable. He always sat in the north gallery above the pulpit. I hope he can be restored to his state of former glory. Johnson does not look right unless he has a book in his hand."

● Behind the scenes at *Classic FM* yesterday not all was as smooth as the gentle sounds wafting over the airwaves. On day one of the station's phone-in "hum line", which listeners are told will promptly identify those irritatingly familiar tunes which they cannot quite remember, the station's experts were flummoxed. A recording of a hum was repeatedly played until the panel of five came up with an answer. Then they discovered that the tune was not to be found anywhere in the station's record library, and a messenger was dispatched to W.H. Smith's. For those not listening at 9 am today, the elusive melody is the theme for Dr Finlay's Casebook.

Princely some

THE Prince of Wales is off to Brixton prison. Not to be detained at his mother's pleasure, but to exhibit at an art exhibition for prisoners which opens tomorrow. Whether the inmates will appreciate the Prince's rendering of a villa in Padua remains to be seen, although Charles' work has already done time in Dorchester prison as part of the travelling exhibition featuring mostly unknown artists.

The Brixton exhibition, sadly, is being billed as "The Last Picture Show". Roy Woods, who masterminds the scheme from a community gallery in a South London squat, has run out of funds, although there are 50 prisoners on a waiting list for his exhibitions. It costs £1,000 to send each exhibition for a

stretch inside, says Woods. "We need a fairy godmother." Not an uncommon plea by those on their way to Brixton.

Wise counsels

MORE than two months after the death of Sir Richard Francis, the British Council is finally ready to choose a new director-general. Recruitment consultants NB Selection will deliver ten names to the council board this week, and a decision is expected early next month. Candidates for the £80,000-a-year post must show "strong management skills". An "insider comments": "The British Council is going through a transitional period, and is looking for a manager rather than a campaigning director."

While this may not rule out some obvious candidates such as John Drummond, former controller of Radio 3, or John Tusa of the World Service, it seems the eventual choice is more likely to come from the business world. Names being mentioned are Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtauld, Sir Iain McVie, former chairman of Midland Bank.

The decision will be taken by the council board, which includes chairman Sir Martin Jacoby, deputy chairman Lord Chorley and the two vice-chairmen, MPs from opposite sides of the political divide, George Robertson and his newly-appointed colleague Tim Renton.

● Today is the centenary of the death of Alfred, Lord Tennyson whose poetry has stood the test of time better than most. After the claims that *Rossini* and *Victor Hugo* would have supported Maastricht, which side will recruit the author of "Locksley Hall"? Till the war drums chime no longer. And the battle flags were hurled in the Parliament of men. The Federation of the world.



MAJOR'S EACH-WAY BET

The British government's policy towards the European Community is now at the mercy of the French electorate. John Major's measured speech yesterday gave nothing away. It went far enough in support of the Maastricht treaty to maintain his dignity as president of the Council of Ministers but carefully kept his options open should either the French, or subsequently the Danes a second time, vote for rejection. The British government records publicly behind the Maastricht accord, but quite how far behind is being kept deliberately obscure.

In private Mr Major and his colleagues, with varying emphases, view the treaty as a botched blueprint for the future of any sensible European co-operation. Yet they are trapped by Britain's occupancy of the presidency until the end of the year and by their realisation that the French vote on September 20 will not be an end to the EC's worries.

A French no vote could plunge Europe's economy further into recession. Or, more likely, it could precipitate an overdue currency realignment and an economic upswing. A yes vote could restore confidence in progress to economic union, or more likely it could lead to further debilitating uncertainty as the pressure turns back on Denmark. Or none of this could matter, with Maastricht as irrelevant to what ought to have been the topic of Mr Major's speech yesterday: how to revitalise the economies of the 12 on a basis of EC free trade. Seldom can European politics have been open to such conflicting diagnoses.

When he came to office, Mr Major conducted his European diplomacy with some aplomb. He and his colleagues went to Maastricht in December 1991, having fought against a hopeless Dutch draft treaty, briefing fire and brimstone all the way. Mr Major succeeded at the treaty talks in two respects. He diluted some of the more unrealistic federal commitments and he disengaged Britain from those that he could not dilute. He opted out of the social chapter and a single currency. This disengagement was achieved without precipitating a de facto British withdrawal from the Community. The British thus managed to remain "at the heart of Europe" without having truck with its more extreme version. This was no mean performance.

Mr Major's conduct at Maastricht was perhaps more significant than his paper victories. Increasingly sceptical heads of government, especially from northern Europe, admired his defence of British interests and his emphasis on the EC meeting its immediate agenda, on it walking before it tried to run. The now famous "forgotten agenda" — farm reform, the single market, Gatt, control of the Brussels bureaucracy and a coherent budget — was still pending. Maastricht was before its time and would prove a distraction from more immediate tasks.

This scepticism was translated into action by the devastating Danish referendum, by subterranean rumbles on the Tory backbenches and, most spectacularly, by the cooling of France's once steady enthusiasm for anything emanating from Brussels. Suddenly a treaty that Britain had had to sign to remain within the EC process was becoming a political embarrassment. The seams of a "wider European union" were not only showing but coming apart. Brussels began to display a wholly novel sensitivity to charges of bureaucracy.

Then the much-predicted turning of the German wheel began in earnest as the Bundesbank came out fighting against European monetary union and dlobbered the markets with its recessionary policies. As the Latin states became grasping in their approach to budgetary reform, the northern states reacted by impeding budget increases.

To federalists, this was a foretaste of the Europe that would emerge from a rejection of Maastricht: a regression against the single market, against farm price reform, against wider membership, towards protectionism. Embittered lobbyists and bureaucrats would scheme to protect their interests. The central disciplines of majority voting that underpin

the single market would disintegrate. The EC would exist merely as a sequence of squabbling ministerial councils. The exchange rate mechanism would collapse. Disunity would reign everywhere, from interest rates to foreign affairs.

In recent weeks, as a French no vote became a possibility, this cataclysmic scenario has been studiously rewritten in the capitals of Europe — if only to soothe currency markets struggling within the ERM straitjacket. Mr Major's speech yesterday was part of the rewriting. A no vote would now be a pity, but not the end of European civilisation. The British presidency, pragmatic as ever, would be able to dispel the Maastricht fog and get down to implementing the forgotten agenda.

Jacques Delors would go. A chastened Brussels would be expected to implement that agenda and stop pressing its self-aggrandisement on each succeeding presidency. Furthermore, observers would expect a currency realignment, or at least a revaluation of the mark, to relieve pressure on the ERM. The British view of Europe (dare it be said, that set out by Margaret Thatcher at Bruges) could then be used as the template for further steps towards co-operation.

Nor would a yes vote be an unmitigated delight. After the changes of mood in Britain, Denmark and Germany, France too would now have lost its naïve European idealism (for whatever self-interested reasons). A yes might calm feelings in Brussels and elsewhere. The battered train would still be on the rails; the European power game could still be played by the old rules. But Maastricht would not be the same again.

In particular, there would be the matter of Denmark. In among the clichés now clearly de rigueur for all presidency speeches, Mr Major gave a clear signal on this. Even if the French vote yes, the ball simply returns to the Danish court. If Denmark remains in the no camp, said Mr Major, then all must think again. There can be no question of leaving one member behind. Britain would not be party to such an agreement.

This is a crucial commitment. Whatever France decides, the Danes will be returning to the Council of Ministers with a "shopping list" of changes to Maastricht — presumably substantive ones — to which the council must respond. This means further upheaval. Into that upheaval must be pitched Mr Major's own backbench troubles. Tory backbenchers will be expected once again to restrain themselves in anticipation of a foreign referendum. They know, as Mr Major's whips know, that Maastricht ratification is a constitutional matter and must therefore be considered line by line on the floor of the House of Commons. Mr Major went out of his way to mention this yesterday: it is the whips' idea of hell.

For the moment, the prime minister is wise to bide his time. He contains within his cabinet ministers who are deeply sceptical of Maastricht. The lawyers among them know that its references to subsidiarity, inserted in the treaty at British insistence, mean next to nothing. Others suspect that Mr Major is motivated as much by a desire for an easy life in Europe as by any real enthusiasm for the document he signed at Maastricht. Either way, he is under a clear obligation as council president to steer a course set by what was an agreed treaty until that course is irrevocable. A French no would render it thus: so too, he indicated yesterday, would a French yes followed by another Danish no.

Mr Major is therefore committing himself to nothing at all. He may have persuaded himself that Maastricht is the lesser of the European evils that stare at him from across the Channel. He may mouth the phrases of the old Euro-enthusiasts, phrases that still sit oddly on his lips. A French yes would give him some temporary relief. But in his heart he must know that a French rejection would release him, his cabinet and his European colleagues from a bind that has afflicted Europe and impeded its progress to effective collective action for almost a year. Maastricht was a mistake. At some point, Mr Major must come out and say so.

CLASSIC CHARM

With a dawn chorus of unusual vigour — Handel's coronation anthem *Zadok the Priest* — Britain's first nationwide independent radio station came on air at 6 am yesterday. Classic FM may have alarmed the more fastidious music-lovers with its advance talk of "hum lines" and "gig guides", and of providing "classical music dressed by Benetton". But yesterday's broadcasting overture was undoubtedly played by a well-tuned ensemble.

The presentation is bright, unpretentious and professional, and those who had predicted a relentless barrage of famous tunes — *Nessun Dorma*, *The Four Seasons* and the hummable three minutes of Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto — have been proved unduly pessimistic. The popular melodies are cunningly mingled with a decent amount of good music that has not yet been honoured by a Nigel Kennedy or Luciano Pavarotti recording. Indeed it is high-minded Radio 3 that is providing morning listeners with wall-to-wall Tchaikovsky, its current "composer of the week".

Classic FM and Radio 3 need not be competitors: they have quite different philosophies. Radio 3's output, despite the much-debated sweetening of its breakfast menu, is still largely designed for concentrated listening. It upholds the view that Beethoven, Brahms and Bartok have profound things to say that demand full attention.

Classic FM starts from the opposite premise, that great music is already part of the aural wallpaper and has been since at least the 18th century, when princes dined while Haydn fiddled. The idea that people plan their radio listening is nonsense: most tune

in impulsively, to hear whether the M25 is clogged or if the sun will shine.

The two approaches are of course complementary, and listener choice has been enhanced. But there are dangers. One is the BBC's seemingly incurable desire to compete with commercial broadcasters on every front. There is no need for Radio 3 to become any more populist. The BBC should immediately declare Classic FM to be an admirable newcomer, and reaffirm its own commitment to Radio 3 as a channel of the highest cultural ideals.

The second danger is that Classic FM will fail in straightforward commercial terms, even with Time-Warner's backing. At present, advertising agencies are not exactly throwing money about. Well-established classical stations in America have had to struggle recently, and they do not have to compete with the BBC. Classic FM must claim around 7 per cent of the listening audience at its peak period in order to prosper — much higher than Radio 3 achieves. Little wonder, then, that it identifies its main competitors as Radio 2, Radio 4 and the remarkably successful "nostalgia pop" commercial stations.

Its future will depend finally on whether the loudly trumpeted explosion in classical music enjoyment is really a deep-lying trend, rather than (as the cynics would maintain) the ephemeral product of slick marketing by a few star performers. There is plenty of evidence that the real demand is there. A vast treasure-trove of virtually unheard melody awaits discovery by this new audience. Classic FM sounds like the perfect Piped Piper to lead them on their merry dance.

If the French say 'no' on Maastricht

From Mrs A. M. Stewart-Wallace

Sir, M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, has said that if the French vote "no" on the Maastricht treaty he will not seek re-election (report, September 1). This would give us an opportunity to reconsider the whole bureaucratic structure at Brussels.

The extravagance and intrusiveness of the costly organisation at Brelaymont have become objectionable. The Brelaymont building has now to be replaced for structural reasons. Should we not regard this as a portent and take a fresh look at the structure of the Commission itself — indeed, dare I say it, the necessity for the Commission at all? Could not the secretariat of the Council of Ministers function as the only civil service needed to run a much simplified European Community?

Unforeseen developments have altered the political map since the birth of the Community. More European states now wish to be involved and a looser association may be envisaged.

We have seen elsewhere that too tight an "imperial" structure produces explosive strains. Let us free ourselves from the increasingly irksome bonds of European centralism and go forward as sovereign partners, de Gaulle's vision of a "Europe des patries".

Yours etc.,
MARY STEWART-WALLACE,
The Moot House, Ditchling, Sussex.

From the Reverend R. P. Stone

Sir, It is not outrageous that a spokesman for No 10 Downing Street should inform us (report, September 3) that the British government will withdraw a bill before the British Parliament in the event of a negative vote in the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty?

Yours faithfully,
PETER STONE,
3 Trescow Road,
Falmouth, Cornwall.
September 4.

From Mr C. M. Dawson

Sir, I think the French people will reject Maastricht because they are

Zoo ballot questioned

From Mr F. T. C. Harris and others

Sir, In a postal ballot, dated August 12, the 2,200 fellows of the Zoological Society of London have been invited by the council of the society to support the following resolution:

Having noted the result of the voting at the Special General Meeting on 29th July 1992 I wish to record my support for the duly elected Officers and Council in their effort to secure the future of the Society.

We submit that this device, which assumes that the method of election of the officers and council is satisfactory (it is not) and that the society can survive the closure of the zoo (it cannot), obscures the issue of the zoo's survival. Our reasons for this submission are as follows:

1. In referring to the voting at the July meeting the ballot seeks to nullify the resolutions then passed; but bylaw 53 (v) disallows any amendment to a resolution in a postal ballot.

2. Of the 225 fellows present at the July meeting, 82 per cent voted for a resolution that the officers and council members responsible for the decision to close the zoo should resign. At a meeting on January 6 this year, 75 per cent of 277 fellows voted for a resolution expressing lack of confidence in the past performance of the council officers. This was accepted by the officers. Surely they cannot accept

French first and European second. I suspect that the British public will have sympathy for that vote. Economic reality and political expediency will not override chauvinism and sovereignty. Perversely, a French "no" may bring our two nations closer than at any time since 1066.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS DAWSON,
63 Rayleigh Road,
Hutton,
Brentwood, Essex.
September 3.

From Mr J. H. Fisher

Sir, Sir Michael Butler, in "How to limit the damage" (article, September 5), writes: "No" votes (in France) will be the result of many different political prejudices.

Will not all the "yes" votes also be the outcome of political prejudices or are "yes" votes of a different nature?

Yours faithfully,
J. H. FISHER,
Homecroft,
1a Hensingham Road,
Whitehaven, Cumbria.
September 5.

From Mr H. R. Wynne-Griffith

Sir, Why is it that the prime minister feels that a "no" to the Maastricht treaty by France will mean its death (report, September 3), whereas a similar vote by Denmark did not? I understood that all states in the Community were equal.

Yours faithfully,
HUW WYNNE-GRIFFITH,
3 Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19.
September 3.

From Mr Colin McCosh

Sir, Remembering Mr Micawber: French Maastricht vote, 50.5 per cent "no", 49.5 per cent "yes", result misery; 50.5 per cent "yes", 49.5 per cent "no", result happiness?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN MCCOSH,
Flat 5,
20 Belsize Park Gardens, NW3.
September 4.

the resolutions of the January meeting and deny those of July.

3. Both the January and July resolutions were "determined" by paragraph 15 of the society's charter, which also requires that there cannot be both a general meeting and a postal ballot. Else, determining a question could be eternal.

4. The treasurer of the society did not intervene at the July meeting when fellows, using the same accounts that he had used to justify closing the zoo, showed that the society was solvent and that buildings could be refurbished without increase in visitors. He has not countered these figures in his statement included with the ballot.

It is our opinion that this ballot is unconstitutional and that the only power now allowed the officers in these circumstances is the convening of a general meeting under by-law 27 (iii) of the charter and bylaws of the society. We urge all fellows to vote against the resolution and to do so by September 14.

Yours faithfully,
F. T. C. HARRIS,
A. M. C. BURGESS,
JACK COHEN,
JEFFREY G. DUCKETT,
HAROLD FOX,
URSULA MITTWOCH,
ROBIN WEISS,
15 Cholmeley Crescent, N6.

Bail hostel fears

From Mrs Susan Sussman, JP

Sir, Most communities (report, August 25; letters, August 31) are afraid of having bail hostels on their doorsteps largely because they have had little or no dealings with them. Fear is based on the unknown. JPs, judges, members of the legal profession and the social services all have the distinct advantage of being shown over these establishments, thus being able to form rational opinions.

Only when members of communities who are expected to live with these establishments are also given the opportunity to view and understand the orderly way in which they are run will attitudes change.

Yours faithfully,
S. SUSSMAN,
55 Springfield Road, NW8.

A traveller framed?

From Mr M. J. Cooke

Sir, Just before I left St Petersburg to return home I purchased in a small antique shop there for about £1.20 a framed black-and-white print of the Last Supper. On closer examination I found behind it an original pen-and-ink coloured drawing of Lenin and Stalin.

The customs officer at St Petersburg confiscated the framed Last Supper, but allowed me to take the other picture out of the country.

One wonders whether the new Russian customs regulations differ from those of the old Soviet Union.

Yours sincerely,
M. J. COOKE,
Whin Rigg House, Borrowcoop Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire.
September 3.

Regulating the City

From the Acting Chairman of Imro

Sir, Let me set the record straight on the misconceptions contained in your leading article of August 28 about the UK financial services regulatory system. Imro (Investment Management Regulatory Organisation) is not "supposed to regulate the pensions industry". As we have pointed out over a period of years, no one regulates the pensions industry, and the expectation is that Professor R. M. Goode's pensions review committee will bring forward proposals to end this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Because the system is misleadingly described as self-regulatory there seems to be a general belief that it is run by financial practitioners. In fact it is run by executives who are full-time professional regulators, supervised by

boards of non-executive directors which include practitioners as well as representatives of the public interest. If you doubt the willingness of the regulatory organisations to police their members effectively you should ask those members (and there are many) who have been disciplined.

The differences between the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) in the United States and the Securities and Investments Board in the UK are much less than you seem to believe. The main advantages enjoyed by the SEC are that it has had more than 50 years over which to build up its experience and its reputation, while the UK regulatory system is only six years old, and that it has far greater powers to prosecute wrongdoers and require restitution than does the SIB. That is why it inspires more "fear and awe".

Anyone who believes that the SEC

Forgotten conflicts around the globe

From Baroness Cox

Sir, The understandable preoccupation of the media with the tragic events in former Yugoslavia has tended to obliterate coverage of other people's suffering. This preoccupation creates a potential danger: most governments dislike adverse exposure of their violations of human rights, and some may now be encouraged to adopt brutal policies, hoping that the rest of the world will remain ignorant of their actions.

Last month I undertook two humanitarian missions on behalf of Christian Solidarity International — one to Nagorno Karabakh, which has long suffered a cruel blockade imposed by Azerbaijan, and one to southern Sudan, where hundreds of thousands of refugees are trapped by war, drought and famine.

Hopes that had previously been raised in Karabakh, after the negotiation of a peace agreement, were dashed when the Azeris continued bombing civilians in the capital city, Stepanakert.

When I was there in August, I witnessed at close quarters the bombing of innocent civilians in towns and villages by Azeri Su25 bombers, with 500kg bombs; the Azeris have subsequently escalated their attacks on civilians, using additionally, MiG21 and Su24 aircraft, causing many deaths.

The Armenians of Karabakh last year suffered brutal deportations of entire villages by the Azeris and are now fighting for survival against almost impossible odds. If the international community does not prevail on the Azeri government to desist from imposing a military "final solution", there will be a grave risk of annihilation of this historic Armenian enclave cruelly located by Stalin within Azerbaijan.

In Sudan, over 250,000 civilians are trapped in Juba, held hostage by government forces in appalling conditions. Roads have been mined so that they cannot escape. It has just been reported that all expatriate personnel of non-governmental organisations have been ordered to leave, putting these civilians at the mercy of the troops.

It is difficult for the media to cover the growing number of crises throughout the world. But innocent people suffering in these and other such areas need the protection of pressure from the international community, which

depends on the media for information; and regimes which have already caused such suffering should not be allowed to get away with more murder behind closed borders.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE COX,
House of Lords.

From Mr Sandy Gall and Mr Mark Scrase-Dickins

Sir, Returning ten days ago from a month spent in Afghanistan, we have to report that the new government there not only deserves Britain's support but desperately needs it if it is to survive.

By forcing a demoralised Red Army to withdraw after ten years of abusive occupation, the Afghans undoubtedly hastened the demise of the "evil empire"; without their courage and casualties there would be no peace dividend.

We should now recognise this huge contribution by giving both moral and tangible support to the government and its outstanding personality, Ahmed Shah Masud, who more than anyone else brought about the overthrow of the communist regime.

There are other good reasons for such support. Masud would establish a moderate Islamic state — to meet the wishes of the majority of Afghans — not a fundamentalist regime; only he, in our view, given help, can eventually stabilise the country and by extension, the region; and he is serious about holding free elections "in one to two years' time" (as he said to us) when he has the security situation under control. As a good Muslim, he is also committed to trying to bring Afghanistan's huge opium production under control and has already made a start in Badakhshan.

At the very least Britain should reopen its Kabul embassy, and send a live wire to run it. We should also try to persuade our American allies to support us, thus repairing some of the damage effected by their rockets, originally supplied via Pakistan, which the Hizb-i-Islami party of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been showering on Kabul, killing more than a thousand innocent people.

Yours etc.,
SANDY GALL,
MARK SCRASE-DICKINS,
Doubtree East House,
Penshurst, Kent.
September 3.

Hops as they were

From Mr D. M. Graham

Sir, Your beautiful mole's eye view of the first stage of the operation of hop picking (photograph, August 31) leaves unexplained what I, as a child, and "thousands of East Enders from London" had to do.

We were not all up on stilts, as your caption suggests, releasing the ends of the vines, the climbing hop tendrils, from the high horizontal, strings or wires, strung from pole to pole.

Our strenuous job was down below, whether sitting or standing round a great canvas "tally baskets", supported by wooden frames, to be heaped high with aromatic flowers picked clean from the long yards of vines and let down to us by the man on stilts.

Our day's work was carefully measured, bushel by bushel, and cared away, to be stuffed into the great poles (which you must not buy a pig in) that stood in the east house, waiting their turn for the slow, careful roasting.

The "Autumn" section of Vita Sackville-West's *The Land* (published in 1926) lovingly describes the scene that then seemed with us for ever: "tractor for sand, maybe, but horse for clay".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. GRAHAM,
9 Vine Road,
Barnes, SW13.
August 31.

Freedom of speech

From Mr A. B. Ingledow

Sir, In your leader of August 28, "Gamekeeping by poachers", you state your view that "the idea that regulation of vested interests by vested interests could ever protect the consumer was flawed from its inception".

You would doubtless apply this to the press?

Yours faithfully,
A. B. INGLEDOW,
Wychwood, 2 Castle Road,
Camberley, Surrey.

Forestry's future

From the President of the Institute of Chartered Foresters

Sir, John James's euphoric letter (August 25) on grants to woodland owners should be considered in the context of the Woodland Trust's 17,000-acre broad-leaved estate, acquired with a large subsidy and public funding. It exists outside the normal commercial restraints affecting the million or so acres of privately-owned woodland in the United Kingdom.

Private owners show no enthusiasm for the current instruments of a government forestry policy, which in itself has admirable aims. They willingly embrace all kinds of management restraints on their activities for the public benefit, but quite rightly expect financial support in return.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID W. G. TAYLOR,
President,
Institute of Chartered Foresters,
7a St Colme Street, Edinburgh 3.
August 26.

'No win, no fee'

From Mr Gordon Apsion

Sir, The official thinking behind proposals to allow barristers to negotiate fees on a "no win, no fee" basis (Law Times, August 25: Mr Rubinstein's letter, September 2) is that initially, only libel cases should qualify in the whole of the United Kingdom, not just Scotland as at present.

I have found that in tax cases only the rich or those subsidised by the rich can usually stand up to the Revenue. Less well-off taxpayers often just capitulate in the face of a contest: they cannot afford it. The Revenue must be aware of that fact.

The introduction of success fees would lessen the chances of the Revenue's screaming off "tax" to which it should not be entitled.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON APSION,
11 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Market forces?

From Dr B. J. Blain

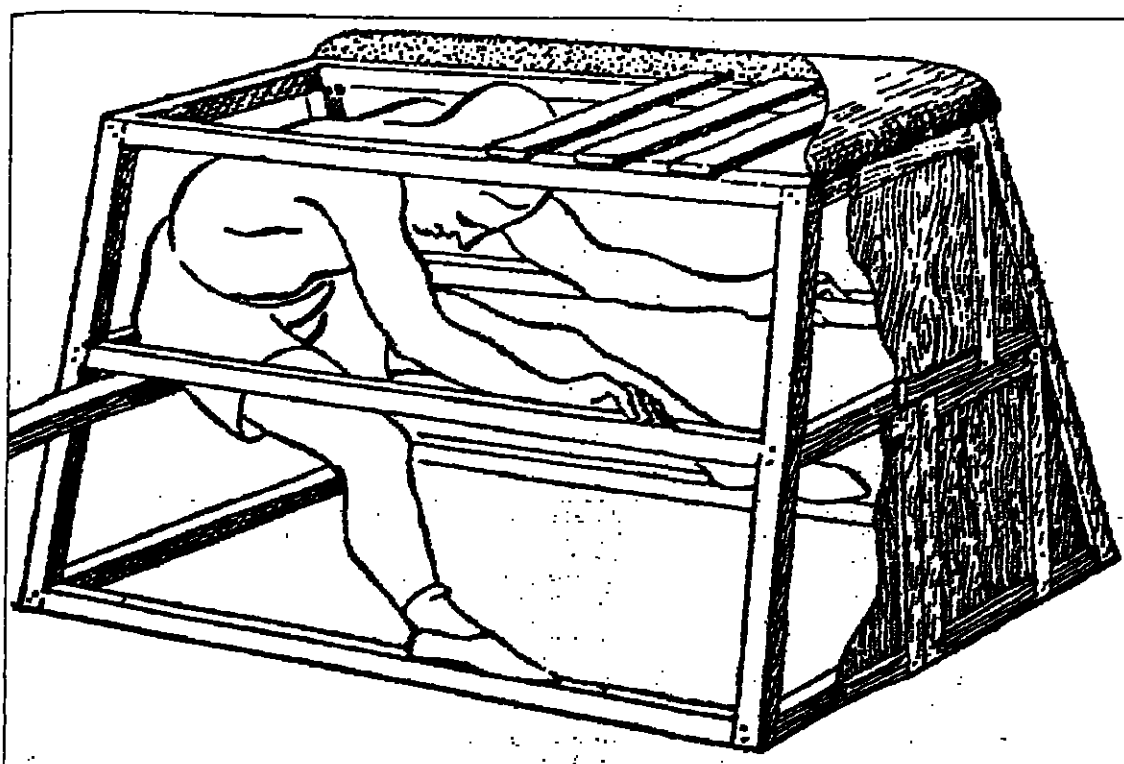
Sir, I believe I have found the cause of the present calamitous economic situation. Analysis of your Business and Education pages has revealed that the depth of the recession correlates precisely with the increase in the number of graduates gaining Master degrees in Business Administration.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY J. BLAIN,
85 Quinta Drive,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.
September 5.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

WING COMMANDER ROGER MAW



Framework construction of the vaulting-horse as illustrated in Eric Williams's book

Wing Commander Roger Maw, who designed and built the wooden vaulting-horse used by his fellow prisoners-of-war in one of the most ingenious escapes of the second world war, died on August 19 aged 86. He was born on June 24, 1906.

THE Wooden Horse escape by prisoners-of-war at Stalag Luft III in Sagen, Germany, became one of the classic stories of the second world war. Inspired by Homer's story of how the Greeks used a wooden horse to infiltrate the city of Troy, the Stalag Luft III POWs conceived the idea of using a vaulting-horse as a visual and psychological cover for the digging of an underground escape route out of Stalag Luft III.

The camp carpenter declined to participate in the project, on the grounds that his equipment had been obtained on trust from the German authorities and was vital for the maintenance of camp morale. So Maw—who had studied carpentry at school, had once built a three-wheel

car and was a constant source of make-shift gadgetry in the camp—was recruited to construct the vaulting-horse.

Using scrapwood, pieces of Red Cross food-parcel crates and the ends of beams surreptitiously sawn from the roofs of huts, he built a vaulting-horse which stood 4ft 6ins high and had a base covering an area of 5ft by 3ft. It was carried out each day to a point close to the camp perimeter wire and then used—in full view of the guards—to ostensibly improve the fitness of the prisoners. But while the prisoners' "athletics team" performed their gymnastic routines, jumping and somersaulting on and over the vaulting-horse, fellow POWs—hidden one by one in the horse—were secretly tunnelling to freedom underneath. They painstakingly dug their way towards the outside world before returning to the horse, ready to be carried back to their huts, minutes before the exercise period ended. The soil they removed as they tunnelled was meticulously collected and stored alongside the men as they

were carried back. It was then either buried under the floorboards of their huts or conveyed in pockets, socks and handkerchiefs to be scattered about the camp compound. They used Maw's tools. He, meanwhile, had fashioned a replica set of tools to display and fool the guards.

Three prisoners managed to escape before the tunnel was discovered by the Germans: Flight Lieutenants Oliver Philipot and Eric Williams and Captain Eric Condor. Maw himself and the other members of the escape committee remained in the camp for another three years until liberated by the British in 1945.

The Wooden Horse escape inspired a book of the same name by Eric Williams, published by Collins in 1949, in which Maw features under the name of "Wings" Cameron. Williams later wrote the screenplay for the 1950 film directed by Jack Lee, starring Leo Genn, David Tomlinson and Anthony Steele with a cast of supporting actors which included Peter Finch and Bryan Forbes.



Roger Hargreaves Maw, a slightly built man with a moustache, was the son of a Lincolnshire landowner. He was educated at Westerleigh School, St Leonard's on Sea, and Oundle. Having learned to fly as an RAF reservist in 1927, he joined 503 Squadron flying Fairey Fawn biplane light day bombers. He served in India for three years, returning to Britain in 1936 and joining 18 Squadron. The following year he joined 105, an Oudax squadron, and then became an instructor at No 3 Flying Training School. After staff appointments in Nos 20 and 23 Groups in 1940, he joined No 142 in 1941 and later that year became commander of 12 Squadron Wellingtons at Binbrook. In 1942 he took command of 108 Squadron in the Western Desert but in August was shot down. He bailed out but

injured his leg as he landed. After surviving in the desert for three days he was captured by the Germans and taken to Stalag Luft III.

He was a striking figure in the camp, decked out in a bright yellow shirt with a large red neckerchief, grey flannel trousers, Egyptian sandals and pink socks. These were the clothes he was wearing when he was shot down.

"I thought I'd dress like a foreigner so that I wouldn't be noticed if I had to bail out," he explained. "But I must have dressed as the wrong sort of foreigner."

After the war he returned to Lincolnshire and farmed at Welton, near Lincoln, before retiring to the Wolds village of Walsby.

He leaves a widow, Janet, and three children, Michael, Jocelyn and Tessa.

CHARLES WELTNER

Charles Longstreet Weltner, Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, who sacrificed a promising political career in the 1960s because he believed in civil rights, died of cancer at his home in Atlanta on August 31 aged 64. He was born in Atlanta on December 17, 1927.

SUPPORT for the Negro cause was hardly a popular stand to take among Democrats in the American Deep South in 1963. But Charles Weltner, who arrived on Capitol Hill as a 35-year-old Congressman from Georgia's fifth congressional district, was determined to stand up for his principles. Backed by a coalition of white and black moderates, he had defeated James C. Davis, a segregationist eight-term incumbent, in the Democratic Party's primary election. Now, as the milestone Civil Rights Act of 1964 was forced through a reluctant Congress by President Lyndon Johnson, it was time to stand up and be counted.

At first, Weltner had opposed the bill, but by the time a Senate version was sent to the House in July, he had changed his mind. Standing before an astonished chamber, he announced that his conscience demanded that he support the measure.

"We in the South," he said, "face some difficult decisions. We can offer resistance and defiance, with their harvest of strife and tumult. We can suffer continued demonstrations, with their wake of violence and disorder. Or we can acknowledge this measure as the law of the land."

Weltner was one of only seven Southerners in the House to vote in favour of the Civil Rights Act.

In the 1964 primary election he won by a narrow margin, and then defeated his Republican opponent in November of that year. But his support of the 1965 Voting Rights Act further angered many white voters in Georgia.

Weltner's political career came to an end the following year when the Democratic nominee for Governor of Georgia was Lester G. Maddox, a segregationist who had run a race-baiting campaign that used the civil rights legislation of 1964 and 1965 to rouse the fears of white voters. Weltner, who had won his own primary, balked at the Democratic Party's requirement that all candidates should sign a pledge of loyalty to Maddox, and in a dramatic announcement to the House of Representatives in October 1966 he withdrew from the race. Maddox was elected.

Weltner was the scion of a distinguished Southern family. His great-grandfather was the first Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, and his great-grandfather, General Thomas Cobb, helped to write the Confederate Constitution and was killed at Fredericksburg during the Civil War. His father, a lawyer, served as chancellor of the state university system.

After leaving Congress, Weltner practiced law in Atlanta and was appointed to the state Supreme Court as an Associate Justice in 1981. He became Chief Justice only three months ago, and was intending to retire in December.

Charles Weltner's first marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by his second wife, two sons and two daughters.



TEDDY TURNER

Teddy Turner, actor and comedian, died on August 29 aged 75 at his home in Horsforth, Leeds. He was born on June 13, 1917.

TEDDY Turner, for many years a familiar face on the Northern club circuit, achieved television fame late in life when he created brief but memorable Yorkshire characters in two of Britain's most popular programmes, *Coronation Street* and *Emmerdale Farm*, as it was then known.

Gaunt visaged and balding, Turner, with his dry sense of humour and his gritty style of delivery, appealed instantly to the fans of the rival shows. In *Coronation Street*, he played the grumpy dustcart driver Chalkie Whiteley, whose dour approach to life contrasted so neatly with another favourite character, the bookish Curly Watts.

In *Emmerdale Farm* Turner was coincidentally cast as another Whiteley, this time with the Christian name Bill, a blunt speaking farmer. He played yet another Yorkshireman in *All Creatures Great and Small*.

He came to the cast of *Coronation Street* in 1982 and his character remained until the following year. He joined *Emmerdale* in February 1989 and stayed in the series for a year and a half until he was "written out" for on-screen appearances, although the character lived on



in the storyline for another year before his death was finally announced. Other programmes in which Turner featured were *Ripping Yarns*, and the long-running sitcom *Never the Twain*, in which he gave strong support to co-stars Windsor Davies and Donald Sinden.

Teddy Turner was also well known locally for his industry in raising funds for charity. His proudest professional oc-

casional, he would say, was the time he acted alongside Lord Olivier in the 1979 version of *Dracula*.

Turner's genial if gruff Yorkshire accent was to be heard in a number of television commercials. His most famous voice-over was for the Hovis bread series, since ranked as a minor classic of its kind.

Turner is survived by his wife and a daughter.

CATHERINE KOUSMINE

Catherine Kousmine, holistic dietitian, died in Lausanne on August 24 aged 87. She was born on September 17, 1904 at a large estate on the Volga 300 miles from Moscow.

WITH the storm clouds of the revolution already darkening, the Kousmines, an Orthodox Russian family with two young daughters, arrived in Switzerland in 1916. Having lost their Volga properties—it used to take the father, specialising in sunflower cultivation, three days on horseback to inspect the estate—the parents were determined that the two girls should be fully self-supporting. Both graduated at Lausanne University, the elder, Tatiana, in physics and Catherine in medicine.

Once established at Lakeside Lully, close by Lausanne, as a successful pediatrician, Catherine Kousmine became increasingly interested in research on the effects of diet, not only in general health but also in treatment of diseases such as cancer, arthritis and multiple sclerosis. This, in 1955, was the subject of her first book.

In it she explained the role of vegetable fibres, vitamins, minerals and other essential nutrients. The book, offering, as it did, hope to many sufferers, touched off prolonged and sometimes emotional controversy, particularly on the danger of delaying surgical intervention while di-

etary prescriptions were followed. At the same time, cancer specialists readily acknowledged Kousmine's qualities as an intuitive and highly intelligent physician whose charismatic personality helped patients to fight off despair.

Not in dispute was her dietary principles, basically vegetarian. According to Dr Christian Schaller, of Geneva, who studied her method and its results, Kousmine was "among the first to show that illness does not necessarily mean treatment with medications, that food and one's living habits are part of medicine. Indeed, holistic medicine owes her a great deal."

Dr Schaller is one of about 85 doctors, 15 Swiss and most of the others in France, who are members of the Paris-based Kousmine Medical Association, formed three years ago when she nominally retired. The Lausanne cantonal hospital menu continues to feature Budwig Cream, a breakfast with vitamin-rich cereals freshly-ground, prepared according to the Kousmine method.

Her best-known book, published in 1980, was *Soyez Bien Dans Votre Assiette* (a play on the French phrase "être bien dans sa peau" "jusqu'à 80 ans et plus"). In the introduction, she spoke about "degenerative illnesses...man is a victim of his condition...becoming more fragile from one generation to

the next...children agitated in school, finding it difficult to concentrate and learn, one in five with spectacles, half of adolescents with bent backs."

She went on to cite examples she had encountered in her research—in conjunction with Zurich University for over a decade and thereafter independently—into the consequences of what people were eating. She gave a case-by-case account of a number of her patients, some cured, some with alleviation of acute symptoms, others past the point of no return.

She deplored what she saw as the medical profession's tendency to concentrate, in effect, on a particular area without sufficient thought being given to the body as a whole.

Kousmine was still alert and active, concerned as ever at widespread dietary ignorance and the effects of excessive pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture, when complications following a fall terminated her personal eighth year of the "plus" referred to in her book's title.

A Geneva hospital dietitian, Corinne Kehl, paid her this tribute: "It is partly thanks to Dr. Kousmine that people are getting away from the morning habit of eating croissants and, instead, turning to a more healthy breakfast." Catherine Kousmine, who was married but took back her own name after divorce, is survived by her son, Jean Luc.

APPRECIATION

Cyril Smith

MAY I add some brief comments to your excellent obituary of Cyril Stanley Smith (September 2)? Cyril was the master in the eyes of practitioners of fundamental metallurgical research: in particular, his various studies of the universal features of microstructure have remained indispensable reading for several decades. He returned with enthusiasm to his love of this study in his last years. Another claim to fame was his devotion to the history of metallurgy. This began in the 1930s when he began buying (for what now seem utterly absurd

prices) copies of the great classics of metallurgy, such as the books by Agricola and Biringuccio, and he published translations of several. At his death, his collection is unique in its range and importance and it is good to know that it will go intact to a great American library specialising in the history of technology.

His books and essays on metallurgical history have been of central importance, especially so his *History of Metallurgy* and the *Society Centennial Symposium on the History of Metallurgy* which he edited.

Professor Robert Cahn

SEPT 8 ON THIS DAY 1905

The Caucasus

The Caucasus, a region of ethnic and linguistic complexity, was annexed by Russia in the nineteenth century. Racial animosity was endemic between Tartars and Armenians; civil war broke out in 1903 culminating in the massacres and anarchy of 1905.

THOUSANDS KILLED AND WOUNDED

ST. PETERSBURG, SEPT. 7

In view of the gravity of the reports from Baku and the urgent requests to afford protection to the lives and property of British subjects, Sir Charles Hardinge, the British Ambassador, communicated this morning with the Russian Government and the Viceroy of the Caucasus calling upon them to exercise all possible diligence and to expand every aid. The Viceroy has already despatched troops and artillery to the scene of the outrages, with instructions to restore order at all costs. It may, therefore, be taken for granted that the Russian Government is now fully awake to the danger of the situation and is trying its hardest to save life and property.

The latest reports indicate that the worst is over, but the picture is one of the deepest gloom. Over 1,000 persons have been killed and several thousands wounded; almost exclusively Tartars, Persians, and Armenians. There are nearly 100,000 workless fugitives and almost the whole oil industry is ruined, involving serious consequences to the trade and commerce of the whole country and a loss of about £20,000,000 annually to the State revenue from Excise.

An Englishman who holds large interests at Baku and has just returned here draws a hopeless picture of the situation. Corrupt and incompetent officialdom so long connived at

every form of wrongdoing that brigandage gradually became omnipotent, and therein lay the germs of the present anarchy and of civil war between the Tartars and Armenians. The worst feature is the fact that the oil companies warned the Government almost a week before hand of what was coming and implored it to send troops, but none came, the attention of the authorities being then concentrated upon the massacres at Shusha, in the adjoining province.

The following statement, reproduced from the *Bourse Gazette*, sheds a strong light upon the Transcaucasian drama:

The authorities of Erivan have discovered unmistakable evidence of a Mahomedan plot for the conquest of the country. A depot of arms has been found on Crown lands bordering on the Aras. The agent for this property, a Mussulman, furnished arms to his coreligionists on both sides of the Persian frontier for massacres at Erivan and Nakhichevan. The Persian khans of Makin have always been on close terms with the Tartar khans of Nakhichevan and co-operate with them for the spread of the Pan-Islamic propaganda, of which Baku is a stronghold. Proclamations headed "Long live Islam! Down with the Ghouls!" have been found in the possession of the men who attacked the Armenians. Moreover the leaders of the Moslem mob wore a red fez, as if boldly proclaiming themselves warriors of the Khalif of Stambul.

The Tartars have laid many villages in ruins and pitilessly massacred the inhabitants. Unless sufficient troops are available promptly to suppress the rising and the news from Baku would show that this is not the case—the whole of the neighbouring country will be devastated, and the populations of the towns and villages will be butchered.

The managers of the oilworks at Baku, despairing of the arrival of military aid, have telegraphed direct to the Tsar.

Birthdays today

Sir Peter Allen, former chairman, ICI, 87; Miss Jeannette Alweg, ice-skater, 62; Professor Sir Derek Barton, chemist, 74; Mr Graham Bradley, jockey, 32; Sir John D.K. Brown, company director, 72; Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, composer, 58; Miss Anne Diamond, broadcaster, 59; Mr Michael Frayn, playwright, 59; Mr Anthony Frimham, management consultant, 73; Mr Fred Jarvis, trades unionist, 68; Sir Denis Lushin, architect, 78; The Marquess of Lothian, 70; Lord Maude of Strathmore-Avon, 80; Mr Geoff Miller, cricketer, 40; Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Newman, 56; Mr Jack Rosenthal, playwright, 61; Sir Harry Secombe, comedian and singer, 71; Professor E.H. Snodgrass, mathematician, 69; Colonel James Stirling, of Garden, Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk, 62; Mr Henry F. Tarkes, founder, Securcor, 92; Dame Guinevere Tilney, former UK representative, UN Commission on Status of Women, 76; Mr Alan Weeks, sports commentator, 69; Mr A.B. Wilson, former Chief Commuter, 74; Mr Alfred A. Wood, architect and conservationist, 66.

Latest wills

Mr Richard Douglas Parkinson, of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, bank manager £51,487.

Memorial service

Sheila Countess of Birkenhead

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sheila Countess of Birkenhead was held yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street. The Rev W.M. Atkins officiated.

Miss Alice Townsend and Margaret Townsend, granddaughters, read the lesson and Miss Harriet Crawley read from the works of Shelley. The Earl of Longford gave an address. Among others present were: Mr John and Lady Juliet Townsend (son-in-law and daughter), Miss Eleanor Townsend (granddaughter), Viscount and Viscountess Camrose (brother and sister-in-law), Lord Harwell (brother), the Hon Mrs Macaulay (sister), the Hon Mrs Julian Berry (sister-in-law), Mr Simon Berry, the Hon Adrian and Mrs Berry, the Hon Nicholas Berry, Mr and the Hon Mrs Martin Cullen, Miguel Cullen, Domingo Cullen, the Hon Eleanor Berry, Lord and Lady Cherwood, the Hon Christopher and Mrs Cherwood, Mr Michael Cherwood, Mr and Mrs Thomas Williams, the Hon Thomas and Mrs Pakenham, Mr and Mrs Laurence Kelly, Mr and Mrs Nigel McNair Scott, the Hon Alastair and Mrs Hever Millar, Mr Mark Macaulay, Mr Rupert Macaulay, Mrs Charles Williams.

Mr Casper Gilroy, Mrs L.E. Carrick Smith, Mrs Claudia Lennon.

Mary Duchess of Roxburghe, the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, Lady Rupert Nevill, the Countess of Andram, the Countess of Longford, Patricia Countess of Dundee, Viscountess Boyd of Merton, Lady Butler of Saffron Walden, Lord Dacre of Glanton, Lord Abinger (Kens-Shelley Memorial Association) with Mr Ken Pritchard-Jones and Mrs C.M. Goe, Jacqueline Lady Kilbarn, Mr Paul Channon, MP, Mrs David Howell, Lady Alexandra Metcalfe, Lady Anne Cowdray, Lady Helen Smith, the Hon Jeremy Deedes (executive editor, *The Daily Telegraph*), also representing the editor-in-chief, The Telegraph, the Hon Mark Lennox-Boyd, MP, the Hon Julia Stonor, the Hon Mrs Haddon, the Hon Robert Corbett, the Hon Mrs Fionn Morgan, Sir Edward Ford, Sir Michael Grylls, MP, and Lady Grylls, Lady Jacob, Lady Elmhirst, Elizabeth Madam McGillycuddy of The Ruels.

Mr Aidan Crawley, Mr James Lees-Milne, Mr Tom Cotterell, Mr David Leigh-Hunt, Mr Neville Ford, Mr Christopher Ballour, Mrs Ian Dunlop, Mr Jeremy Reiss, Mr Robert More O'Reilly, Miss Joanna Richardson, Judge Robert Pryor, QC, and

Mrs Pryor, Mrs Eric de Bellaigue, Mr and Mrs Murrough O'Brien, Mr and Mrs Kenneth Wagg, Mrs Gerald Ward, Mr Roderick Cavaliero, Mr Norman Ennack (Jippling Society), Mr Humphrey Truman (All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club), Mr David Murray (140 Trustee Company), Mr Timothy Lavey (Bidwells), Mr George Bull (Royal Society of Literature) and Mr Barney Thornbald-Hicks (CPRE).

Church news

Mr Jeremy Bromfield, Cathedral Wardens, St Albans Cathedral: to be an Honorary Lay Canon of St Albans Cathedral (St Albans).

Church of Scotland

Retirements: The Rev Alan Byers from Gamrie with King Edward. The Rev David S. Forsyth from Belhelvie. The Rev Duncan McLachlan from Sherwood, Paisley. The Rev David Reid from Largs with St Monans. The Rev John J. Smith from Lochmaddy and Trunagar.

Church in Wales

The Rev Mark Richard Price: Assistant Curate, Penarth with Lavernock; to be Vicar of Ewenny with St Bride's Major.

Archaeology

Crystal skull sparkles at Aztec exhibition

By NORMAN HAMMOND

AZTEC and Maya treasures from the British Museum's collection, rarely seen in public, will go on display at the Hayward Gallery, London, this month. They include carved wooden drums, stone masks, and a crystal skull.

The objects will accompany a loan exhibition from Mexico's National Museum which opens on September 17. Among the Mexican pieces is a Maya jade mosaic mask recently found at the great city of Calakmul, deep in the Campeche rainforest, and shown for the first time outside that country.

The British Museum's Maya collection has not been shown in London for nearly two decades: the Hayward exhibition includes one of the carved lintels from Yaxchilan, a city where the sculptures

portray rulers and their wives engaged in bizarre scenes of blood-letting.

There will also be a series of polychrome plaster heads from Louisville in Belize, a "Maya Portrait Gallery" still largely unpublished and unknown to the scholarly world.

The Aztec sculptures will include masks of the flayed god Xipe Totec, whose priests dressed themselves in the skins of sacrificial victims. "As the festival progressed the heat and sun caused the skins to tighten and finally burst, symbolic of new growth in spring," said Oriana Baddeley, who has selected the British material for the exhibition.

Maya and Olmec jades, some of the latter perhaps as early as 800BC, are also included.



PARENTS p5
How do
English
children view
Europeans?



LIFE & TIMES

MEDIA p7
How the BBC
should be
marketing
itself



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 1992

Take it on the chin, and grin

A vicious cartoon can be a godsend to a politician, as an exhibition in London illustrates. **Matthew Parris** explains

Mummy I don't like it!" squealed an infant close by. She was looking at the *Spitting Image* representation of Mr Kenneth Baker as a slug.

"Ooh yes," replied her mum, approvingly. "Isn't it horrid!" She called her young son: "Here, Stephen, come and look at this yucky thing! He's a famous politician, you know."

Did I imagine it, or did I see Mr Baker's little features twitch with pleasure?

The infant, her mum, the slug and I were at a splendid exhibition of political cartoons and caricatures now on at the Barbican Centre: The Cutting Edge.

"Not so much the cutting edge," writes one visitor in the exhibition Comments book, "more a blunt instrument." At the Barbican now, just as in magazines and newspapers down through the ages of English satire, the great and the good are beaten over the head with a variety of blunt instruments, sneered and spat at, and compared variously to dogs, pigs, monkeys and hyenas. Who said that true satire used the razor not the pike staff? With the exception of the elegant and good-humoured Peter Brookes and the classy Chris Riddell, the best on display here proceeds not by polished swordplay but by the well-aimed kick in the crotch. Nothing affords greater pleasure.

It's delicious. Yet, though there are many good jokes in this exhibition, the biggest joke is on the artists themselves. For it is not they but their supposed victims, the politicians, who emerge as the stars of this show. They are subjected to every kind of calumny and indignity at the Barbican and we doubt not for a moment that they deserve it — yet they are not diminished by it: it only augments their reputation. I know nobody in the cabinet who would be anything but sorry to discover that he or she does not feature in this show. The slugs have the last laugh.

"Oh yes," said the infant's mother to her friend, confronted by the centrepiece of this exhibition, the brilliant, disturbing, tableau of the Tory Last Supper, depicting Mrs Thatcher as Christ: "It is offensive. Gosh!" She and her friend stared in wonderment, enjoying being offended some more. "And I agree it's a blasphemy, don't you? I really don't think people should be allowed to attack her like that. Poor Mrs Thatcher!"

There they all are, the cartoonists in the printed catalogue, making (many of them) prim little statements about their sacred duty to puncture political myths — and not one of them appears to see what stares us in the face: that lampoonery need not puncture; it often inflates. By mocking politicians, we may serve them. Far more than we realise, we satirists, cartoonists and jokers become part of the image-making we thought we had come to explode.

Take Mrs Thatcher. Scarle, Steadman and Steve Bell (all featured at the Barbican) construct her — Scarle with an acid wit, Steadman with stunning nastiness, and Bell with schoolboy hilarity — into three different kinds of monster. But the monsters have this important trait in common: they are brutal, they are effective, and they trample their enemies.



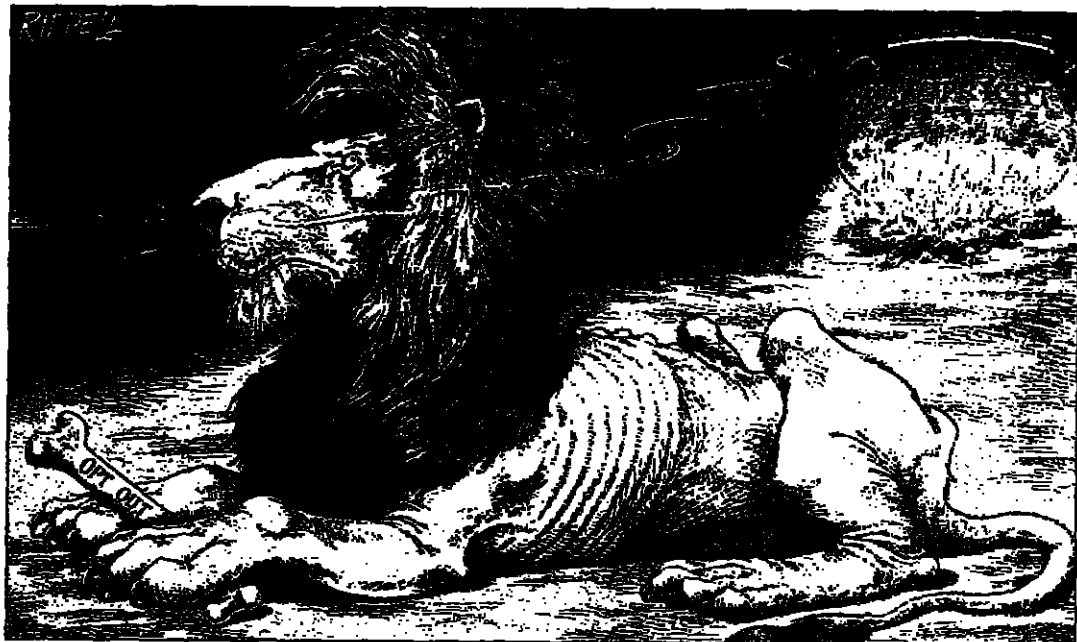
Cruel: Luck and Flaw's *Private Eye* 1992 general election cover



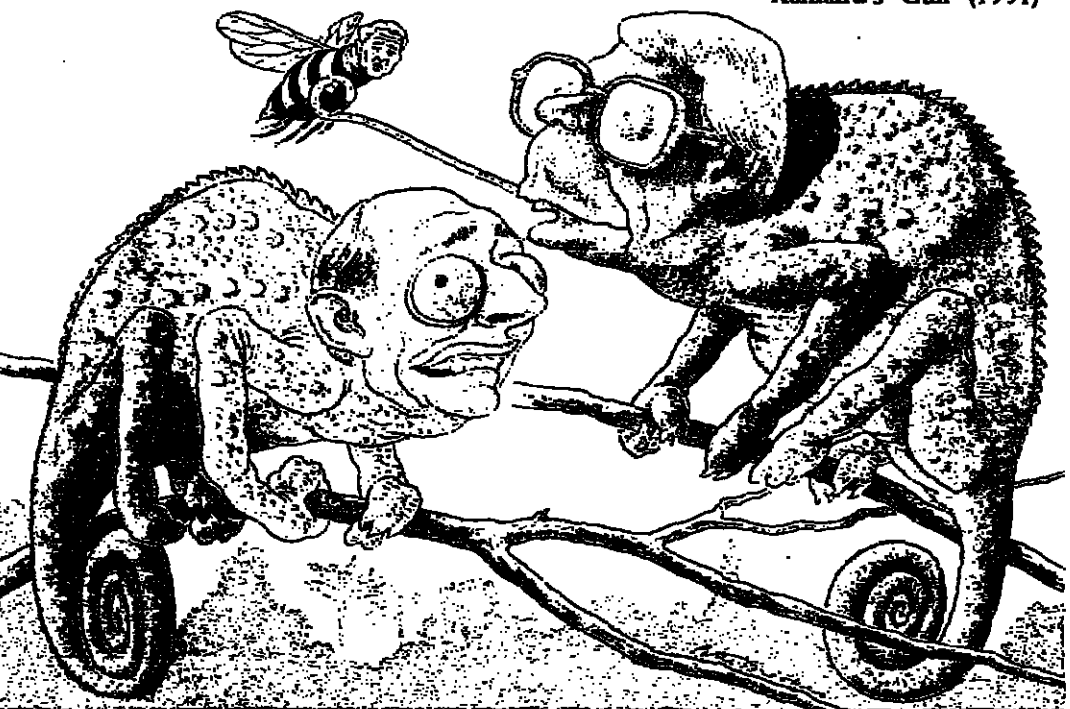
Time runs out: Peter Kennard's "Gulf" (1991)



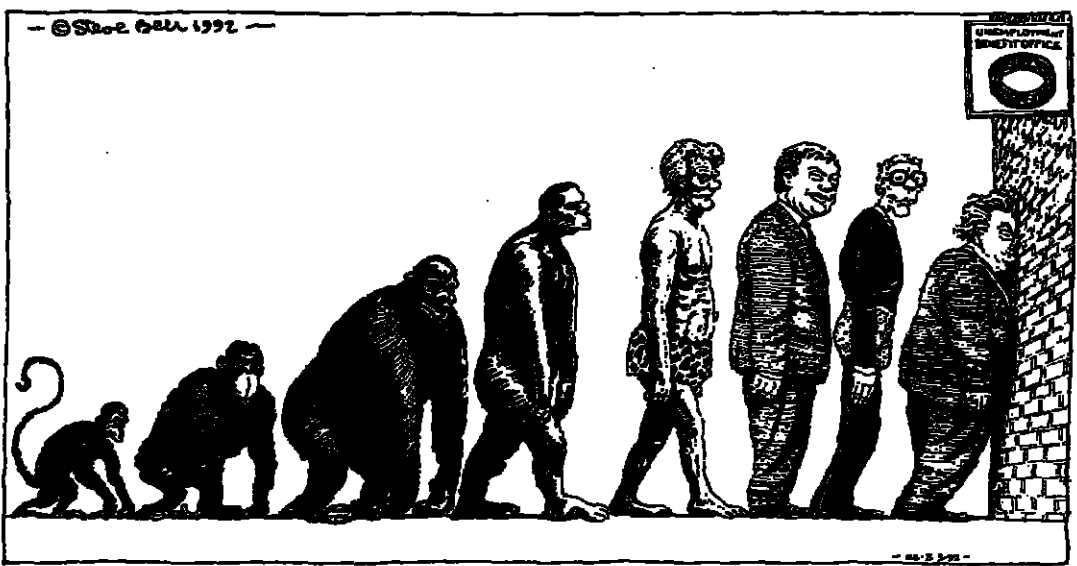
No escape: a Trog cartoon for *The Observer* from June 1986, during the Austrian elections



A quest for timelessness: Chris Riddell's "Opt Out", from December 1991, retains its relevance



Two parties with the same policies: Peter Brookes's chameleons for *The Times* (March, 1992)



Was it all worth it? Steve Bell does it out in his "Ascent of Man" (1992) for *The Guardian*

Perhaps because so many cartoonists' sensibilities are rooted in a liberal conscience, they assume that to portray a woman as cruel and bloodthirsty is to devalue her in the eyes of their audience. Not so. British newspaper readers are an atavistic creature. Superficially he disapproves of brutality, subliminally he respects it. He sniggers at the cartoon and forgets it. What he remembers is the aura of power surrounding Mrs Thatcher which the cartoon has helped reinforce. Thatcher as Boudicca, Tebbitt as Dracula, Owen as psychopath... For 12 years cartoonists threw everything they had at the previous prime minister yet ended up only by bolstering her ego and reputation. To Neil Kinnock they were kinder: "Kinnock as clown" was the worst he got and that single image did him more harm than the whole

anthology of anti-Thatcher insults on display here. Clowns don't win: she-wolves do. What will they do, I wonder, for John Major? Satirists are in serious trouble with this man. At the Barbican, only *The Guardian's* Steve Bell is really having fun with the new Tory Reich. He depicts a goofy, gormless, sub-Batman-style character with ghastly Y-front underpants worn outside his trousers. But I notice that Bell's charming John "and his amazing Technicolour underpants" has a streak of ruthless cunning — and that in the end he wins. What odds that in designing a vote-winning myth for the new PM, Steve Bell may succeed where Tim Bell would fail?

● The Cutting Edge continues at the Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, London, EC2 (071 638-8891) until October 18.



Ouch! Jacky Fleming from *Be a Bloody Train Driver* (1991)

Counting sheep? That's just kids' stuff

Did you hear about that recent United Nations report which said that the population of the earth is now approaching six thousand millions? Did you find yourself, as I did, turning that number over and over in your mind, wondering, for instance, how they figured it out? Who, for example, can tell exactly how many people there are in China or Pakistan? When were they last counted? Who conducted the census? If a census in our own small, highly-organised and computerised country may be incorrect by a factor of 2.5 per cent either way, isn't it a fair bet that a census in China — if there has been one in the last fifty years — would be inaccurate by 15 per cent? That's a couple of hundred million souls in one country. If the same factor of unreliability were to apply to the UN's global figure, it might be inaccurate by as much as one billion people.

So what, you might yawn. What's a billion here or a billion there? Sleepily, you might wonder who on earth has got the time for these odd questions. In that case, you probably are not an insomniac. A lot of time is spare for global questions and calculator tapping for anyone who is usually awake between the hours of 2am and

5.30, as I have been for the last decade. When I was a baby, I slept like a baby. Since I have come to middle-age, I sleep like an old man, fitfully and shallowly, nodding off for half-hours, my nights occupied with half-baked calculations. One of them just crossed my cataleptic brain.

I will bet that, at this hour of 2.30 in the morning, there aren't three people in all the world reading the plays of Galsworthy, as I was until I started writing this piece. That makes — hold on a sec while I fiddle with the calculator again — one of us for the entire populations of China, India, Brazil and the United States put together, if the UN's figure is to be credited.

Is there something wrong with the one in two thousand million of us who is turning the pages of *Defeat: A Tiny Drama* (first line: Young Officer "I say, what's the matter? You were crying when I spoke to you.")? You bet there is: we can't sleep. The works of the most celebrated and richly rewarded dramatist of his day have, I suspect, become a last refuge of hope for a handful of insomniacs like yours truly who will take any book down from the shelves if they think it might bore them into slumber. It isn't working. It never does. I have now been awake for nearly an

MID LIFE
Neil Lyndon greets the dawn, and the latest population statistics.



hour and I know that not even Galsworthy, not even *Fundamentals of the Petroleum Industry* by Robert O. Anderson will cause my eyes to close and a snore to shake my lips before the cockerel starts crowing. Reading boring books is no more of a cure for insomnia than writing boring articles. Doing the accounts or figuring out population statistics. Take my word for this: nobody has gone to greater

lengths to bore themselves into stupefaction. A couple of years ago, my constant small-hours study was the *Mortality Statistics* published by HMSO. Outside of actuarial offices and undertakers' chapels, I doubt if any individual in the country has taken a more detailed interest than I have in the multitude of weird ailments and misadventures which annually bump off our fellow citizens (how many people know, for instance, that 577 people died in England and Wales in 1987 from "falls on or from stairs and steps" whereas 355 people died from "homicide and injury purposely inflicted by other persons"?).

I had to give up the *Mortality Statistics* because they were so fascinating and awakening. Poring down the columns and discovering that three people died in a single year from "sprains and sprains of ankle and foot", I wanted to run up the stairs and wake up my family to share the news and ask with them "How did those people do it? Let's have a guessing game."

Misery always needs company; but the insomniac is more completely alone with his miseries than anybody except the occupants of isolation wards. To relieve the solitude, I used to play a game which came to be known in my

family as *Dialling the World*. It goes like this: you dial the international and local prefixes for a place like Adelaide, followed by the digits of your own number. When the phone is answered you say "Hello and greetings to Adelaide's very own 584 3271. This call is coming to you from your telephonic twin in England. How wonderful to link hands across the world in this way. I think of us as being almost like cousins. How's the weather there?"

That's usually the sum of what you can say before the recipient says "What kind of idiot call is this? Do you know what the time is here? Everyone in this house is fast asleep, you maniac. Get off the line and don't call back."

I don't play *Dialling the World* any more. Having been insulted from Greenland to New Guinea, I have come to understand that I am alone in thinking that this game is fun. Besides, I have run out of numbers. If anybody has reason to doubt that there are, truly, six billion people in the world, it is me. I have tried to speak to most of them and, given the number of times I have found their numbers disconnected or unanswered, I have come to the conclusion that there may be many fewer of us than the United Nations supposes. Either that or everybody else is asleep.

TOMORROW: Richard Ingrams on Classic FM's début

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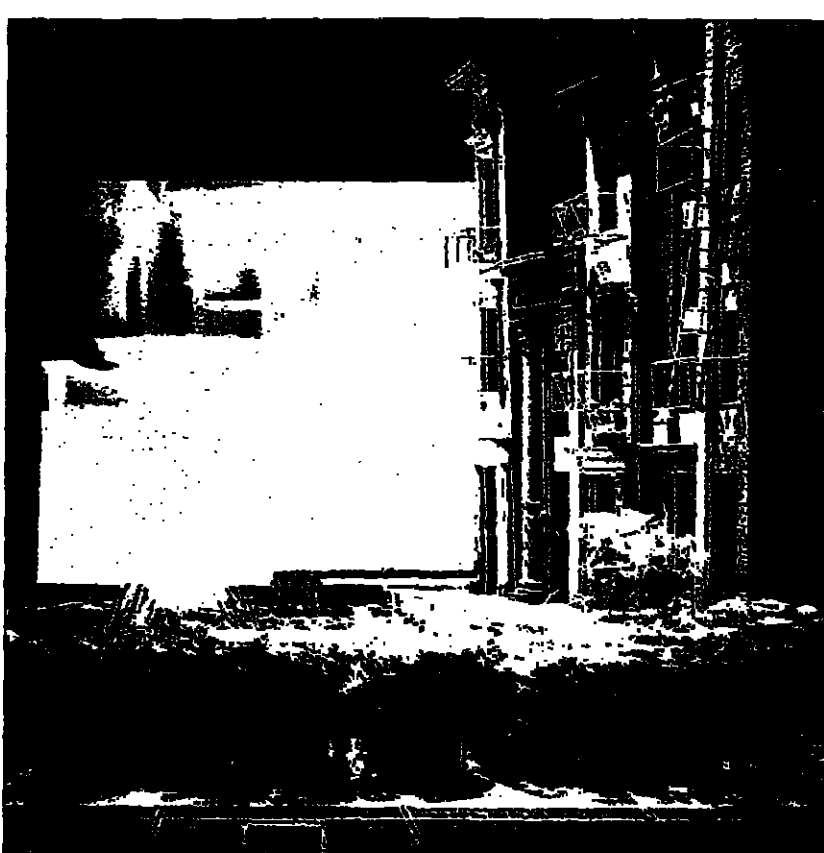
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PREVIEWS FROM 8 OCTOBER
OPENS 20 OCTOBER

Opera: Wagner is out on video, and Barry Millington finds that the 18 cassettes capture some of Bayreuth's most controversial productions

The gods become cogs in the machine



Demythologising in progress: scenes from *Das Rheingold* (left), *Siegfried Act I* (centre) and *Götterdämmerung*. In the 1976, centenary Ring cycle productions by Patrice Chéreau at the Bayreuth Festival, now available on video

Bayreuth is rarely a tranquil place, but this summer the rumours and manoeuvres have been particularly entertaining. The German press has been humming with speculation about the future of the festival begun by Richard Wagner in 1876. Is Wolfgang Wagner, the composer's grandson, finally to retire? Will the succession pass, for the first time ever, outside the Wagner dynasty? Is the temple to be desecrated by the performance of other composers' music — perhaps even by Wagner's Jewish *bête noire* Meyerbeer?

Like *The Ring* itself, the drama will unfold at length and with many cunning twists. In the meantime, ardent Wagnerites with upwards of £300 to spend can unwind with the massive "Richard Wagner Edition": a boxed set of 18 Bayreuth Festival videos (regrettably not subtitled) just released by Philips.

This is an encyclopaedic survey of productions mounted from 1972 to 1981, or from Götz Friedrich's *Tannhäuser* to Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's *Tristan und Isolde*. It takes in Wolfgang Wagner's own *Parsifal* (1975) and *Meistersinger* (1981), Friedrich's *Lohengrin* (1979), Harry Kupfer's *Der fliegende Holländer* (1978) and, as the centrepiece, Patrice Chéreau's centenary production of *The Ring* itself.

The latter is naturally the star of this monumental show. At Bayreuth it held the stage from 1976 to 1980, but it subsequently reached a far larger audience when Brian Large's excellent video, recorded in 1980, was televised to great acclaim in Britain and elsewhere. The production was undoubtedly the most controversial single project in the history of an institution that is no stranger to controversy. What so upset the traditionalists was not only Chéreau's determination to confront head-on the ideology lying behind Wagner's great tetralogy, but also seemed to be challenging the whole concept and history of Bayreuth itself.

His demythologising of Wotan and the other gods brought them down from the clouds to the real world of human beings. Some protested that this anti-heroic stance ran counter to the music Wagner gave the gods. But this objection overlooked the fact that the gods' nobility is

but a facade concealing their corruption and decadence. Wagner's music may suggest sublimity, but the actual events it depicts are far from sublime.

Chéreau set his production in an industrialised society such as Wagner himself lived in. A hydro-electric dam took the place of the free-flowing Rhine, and a Victorian drawing-room provided the setting for Wotan's domestic confrontations in *Die Walküre*, instead of the rocky mountain. Occasional 20th-century costumes and props suggested a continuity between Wagner's time and ours.

Scene after scene was recreated in a series of unforgettable images: the full-length mirror into which Wotan gazed during his soul-searching monologue; the

'Wagner's music may suggest sublimity, but events depicted are far from sublime'

embracing of his son Siegmund after allowing him to be impaled on Hunding's spear; Brünnhilde being dragged by Gunther into the Gibichung Hall like a wounded bird. All this is captured superbly in Large's video, as is the excitement of the love scenes.

Gwyneth Jones as Brünnhilde was at the peak of her powers. Indeed, one of Chéreau's greatest achievements was to overturn at a stroke the stanesque tradition of "operatic acting" in favour of stirring music-theatre. Subsequent directors have built on Chéreau's innovations but none has surpassed him in this sphere, not even Harry Kupfer, whose equally contentious *Ring* was at Bayreuth for the last time this season.

Kupfer, however, first came to international attention in 1978 with a *Fliegende Holländer* that was psychologically convincing and electrifying. Modern audiences find it difficult to sympathise with the young woman who falls obsessively in love with a man she has never seen, finally

committing suicide because he needs redemption. In Kupfer's production, Senta, torn schizophrenically between fantasy and reality, becomes the focus.

The entire first act takes place in her imagination, and in the second she conjures up her own fantasy Flying Dutchman, a romantically dark-skinned hero (played by Simon Estes). The face of the stranger brought in by her father remains in shadow; Senta communicates only with her own Dutchman. At the end, she welcomes death as the only release from her mental torture: she leaps from a room in her father's house. And out of the window with her go all the old notions of sacrifice and redemption.

The fantasised action — appropriate, given the internalised nature of Wagner's dramas — was not a new idea. Ponnelle's *Tristan und Isolde* (René Kollo and Johanna Meier in the title roles, Barenboim conducting) tackled some of the work's fundamental problems: its call for self-annihilation, the link between love and egotism, the nature of "redemption". Understanding that *Tristan* was not the work of a man ecstatically in love, as Wagner himself admitted, but of one deeply frustrated and insecure, Ponnelle suggested that its composition was the result of pressing psychological necessity. Thus the whole of the final catastrophe became a projection of Tristan's: his death and Isolde's transfiguration take place only in his imagination.

Wolfgang Wagner's own more conservative brand of direction is exemplified by his *Meistersinger* and his semi-naturalistic, dramatically inert *Parsifal* (Friedrich's 1982 production better deserved preservation). The chorus and orchestral work throughout the set are up to Bayreuth's impeccable standards; the soloists a fair sample of the best Wagner singers available at that time.

Those whose priority is sonic excellence, however, could invest in Philips's parallel set of 32 mid-price CDs, again retailing for just over £300. The same ten operas come on these discs, through several are in different productions from the videos.

Barry Millington edited the Wagner Compendium, recently published by Thames and Hudson (£25)

TELEVISION REVIEW

Too many plums in this pudding

The story of evolution is every bit as fantastic as that of the Creation. While *Genesis* navigates its way to man in a few smooth verses, natural selection offers a confused and bumpy ride, with a lot of wrong turnings and dead ends.

Television natural history programmes have tended to ignore this, taking the world as a finished artefact to be described and admired. Change, without which the full glorious variation of fur and feather would never have evolved, is usually seen as a threat. Man is invariably the villain.

The Velvet Claw, which began a seven-week run on BBC 1 last night, offers at least a refreshingly different perspective. A series about the evolution of the carnivores, it does not pretend that the world was always as we see it

today, or that change invariably means deterioration. Using computer animation to bring the fossil record to life, it traces the rise of a class of creatures, now 246 species strong, that survive by killing and eating others.

The first programme in the series was, alas, a bit of a muddle. Jumping swiftly from long-extinct carnivores to their modern equivalents and back again, it left me confused. There are a limited number of new names any viewer can be expected to absorb in half an hour, and this film exceeded it by a generous margin.

Without captions or talking heads, it tried to convey a complex argument through film, animation and commentary, narrated by Derek Jacobi. As he spoke of *condyla* and *cimolestes*, of creodonts and miacids, I found myself begging to know how these

names were spelt. A family tree would have helped, but that, I suppose, is far too old-fashioned an idea.

The Carnassial Connection — a meaningless title, to most — was a bit like a Russian novel without the helpful cast-list at the front. There were simply too many ideas, too many names, too many curious characters who swam into view only to disappear down the oubliette of evolution. After a bit, the temptation was to sit back and enjoy the animations without trying to follow the argument.

A pity, that, because the central thrust was that in evolution great conclusions spring from tiny causes. The group of predators that emerged on top of the heap did so because they possessed the right kind of teeth, capable of scissoring their way through flesh thanks to a dental con-

struction apparently known as carnassial shear. The rest did their best, but lacked the vital molars and were eventually eclipsed.

This was presented as accepted fact, though instinct tells me that there may be alternative explanations. No hint was given of how these conclusions had been reached, or on what evidence they rested.

Further programmes in the series promise detailed examination of different groups of carnivores, from the great cats to the tiny but brutal weasels, stoats and martens. A sneak preview of next week's film, on cats, suggests that the technique will work better on a smaller canvas: there are some shots of cats hunting which will make kitty never seem quite the same again.

NIGEL HAWKES

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

Cathy accentuates the positive

W as it for art or love that Juliette Binoche so resolutely disguised her classic beauty for *Les Amants du Pont Neuf*? Playing a painter who is losing her sight and has taken to the streets, she appears grubby and disfigured with an eye-patch, spots and blackened teeth. A labour of love indeed, for the film (in London from Friday) was made during her four-year partnership, off-screen and on, with its director Leos Carax.

"We lived together, that's why the film is so special," the 28-year-old French actress observes. "When he began writing we had separated, but then we came back together again. We would talk a lot, I would suggest ideas, and many of them got into the film."

"And while he was writing I was painting him a lot. That's why he's made me a painter in the film. All the paintings you see in the film are mine. I'm planning an exhibition next year. I paint portraits. I'm not interested in abstract. I'm a very concrete person."

Binoche's street grime in *Les Amants* contrasts strongly with the first film she made with Carax: *Mauvais Sang*

David Robinson meets Juliette Binoche, the star of the forthcoming *Les Amants du Pont Neuf* and a new *Wuthering Heights*



Les Amants: Juliette Binoche and Denis Lavant

(English title, *The Night is Young*). That emphasised Binoche's beauty — a beauty that resembles the legendary diva of the silent screen, Louise Brooks. (Significantly, Carax acknowledges silent films as a dominant influence.)

The Binoche beauty will soon be fully visible again. In *Wuthering Heights*, which opens in London next month after a mixed reception at the Edinburgh Film Festival, she plays the dual role of Cathy and Cathy's daughter. In Louis Malle's forthcoming *Damage*, adapted by David Hare from the novel by Josephine Hart, she plays a continental *femme fatale* who misleads an English MP (Jeremy Irons), the father of her fiancé. Binoche studied at the Paris

Conservatoire and first attracted notice in 1985 with her fourth film, André Téchiné's *Rendez-vous*. Three years later, Philip Kaufman's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* made her a star.

Most of the next three years were taken up with *Les Amants*. The production was troubled and protracted. There were delays when the male lead, Denis Lavant, was injured. Then permission to use the real Pont Neuf was refused and the creation of a replica rocketed the costs of the film to £15 million.

"But it was wonderful for me," says Binoche. "I was dancing, singing, painting, learning English. Carax is the best director of his generation. He has the eyes of a child; he likes extremes."

"Sometimes I think he wanted to provoke or hurt me. He initially wanted my character to die at the end of the film. I got cross with him about that. We separated for about two weeks because I didn't agree. She had to stay alive."

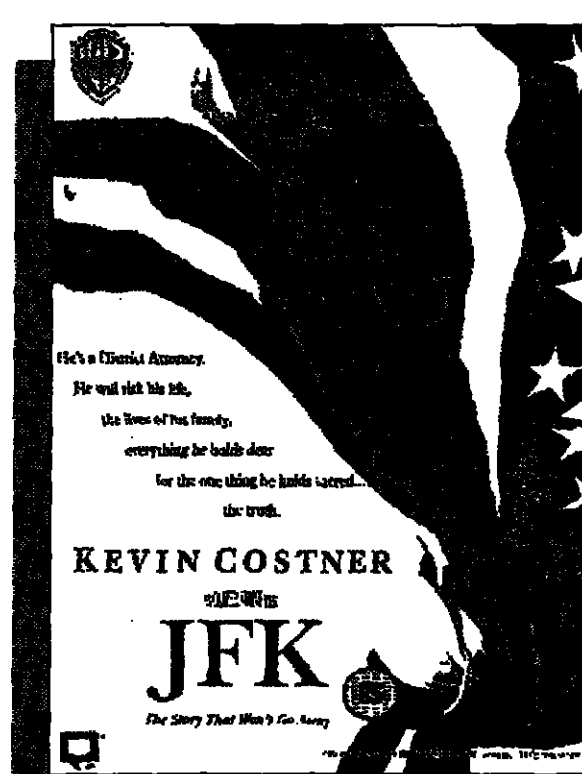
Binoche used the delays on the film to practise English in preparation for *Wuthering Heights* — though inevitably this Gallic-accented Cathy caused a few sniggers among the critics at Edinburgh. "I refused the role at first because I felt it should be an English actress; but then I thought I could not avoid it. We are in the EC. It is good to have an international language. The English must understand that their language is international, and be proud."

"I love to act in English. A lot of the lines in *Wuthering Heights* come straight from Brontë and it was difficult to make them alive. I don't try to give Cathy a regional accent. Just standard English. I think some of my sounds are still a bit strange, though."

She is currently preparing a film with Krzysztof Kieslowski, the director of *Dekalog*. "This time he's making a triptych, called *Liberty, Equality and Fraternity*: three films to be shot in Paris, Poland and Switzerland. We are working in English, because Kieslowski doesn't speak French. So after working in French on an English-language film, *Damage*, I'm working in English on a French-language film."

Les Amants du Pont Neuf opens at the Lumière, St Martin's Lane on Friday. *Wuthering Heights* opens at the Empire Leicester Square on October 16.

RITZ VIDEO



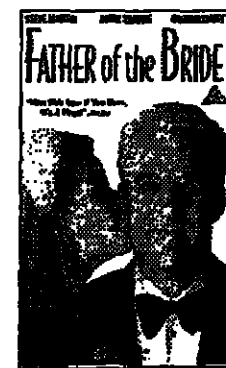
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The world remains silent over reports of violations of women in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Barbara Hewson wonders why

FIFTEEN-year-old Edina said that on July 30 she was taken by armed men from the school where she and other Muslim women were being held to the local Serbian commander's headquarters. "He asked me questions about where Bosnian units were in the town and wanted to know if I would take a Serbian name... Then he took me to a flat and raped me... He said I was only for him and he wouldn't let another man touch me." Edina was gang-raped on two other nights, once by three Serbs whom she knew.

Her 17-year-old sister, Elvira, was gang-raped three times, twice on the floor of the school and once in a flat by five Serbs. "They took me inside and told me to take off my clothes. When I said no, they beat me." She was taken to a bedroom where men queued to rape her. "I knew three of them very well... They were my friends before the war. We spent time together in the café."

These accounts were carried in the British press on August 10. One hundred Muslim women and girls were rounded-up and held at a school in Rogatica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, during "ethnic cleansing" by Serbs. The women were repeatedly gang-raped. Many assailants were former friends and neighbours. In recent weeks reports from the former Yugoslavia have described similar atrocities against women civilians by soldiers from various ethnic backgrounds.

An ITN news crew filmed another women refugee, who told a reporter how she and other women had been detained in a cellar for four months by Serbian troops and repeatedly gang-raped. The woman's friend, Sandra, aged 19, who had tried to resist, was shot.

Reports on August 10 described how "dozens" of Serbian women were subjected to a two-month reign of terror by Croats who had joined the local militia in Novigrad, where the Croatian army tried to cut across the Serbian corridor early in the war. Ljubica said she stayed with a group of other women for protection after being interrogated. Neighbours then accused them of hiding Chetniks (Serbian irregulars).

The next night she and three other women were taken to a house where 15 men in battle fatigues abused them. "They said, 'We want to see you naked.' They told us that the Chetniks had raped 150 women and now they were going to do the same to us. Seven men raped us, one after the other - we were abused for five hours. They were all neighbours of mine."

Another, Gordana, was taken to a house and gang-raped by drunken irregulars. "They tried to make me yell that I was having a good time. When I screamed, one of them smashed my head against the floor. It all lasted three hours. Afterwards they said I would have an Ustashi (Croatian fascist) child."

Accounts such as these have not attracted the same international outcry as the camps where men are held. The camps, with their echoes of the Holocaust, led to high-level accusations of "human rights violations". But politicians and human rights observers are strangely silent on the abuse of women's rights. Possibly male politicians believe



It could happen here: the knowledge that rape has always been a feature of warfare does nothing to assuage the anxieties of women as they huddle in basements in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Rape is a war crime too

that war is a tacit licence to rape. Such official silence illustrates what Susan Brownmiller's history of rape, *Against Our Will*, called "the standard censoring mechanism that men employ when dealing with the rape of women".

War crimes include breaches of the rules of war. They are international torts, giving rise to a duty of reparation. They give "belligerent states" an extraordinary jurisdiction over members of enemy forces in their hands who are charged with war crimes. They can be tried by an international tribunal. Breaches of rules of war can also lead to courts martial.

Not until the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 did modern rules of war expressly forbid the sexual abuse of women civilians. This provides that women shall be protected "in particular" against "rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault" (paragraph 2, Article 27). Previously, the Hague Regulations of 1899 and 1907 referred only to "family rights and honour" (Article 46), which says little for women's status at the turn of the century.

The Serbian commander viewed the child he raped as booty ("He said I was only for him and that he wouldn't let another man touch me"). The militia who gang-raped Serbian women were similarly proprietorial ("they said I would

have an Ustashi child"). Such attitudes go back to pre-history, when rape of women in war was regarded as inevitable, even natural. "Women are the grass that gets trampled when elephants fight," an ancient Eastern proverb says. For men, rape was the conqueror's privilege, not a crime. Homer's *Iliad* refers to Greeks enslaving captured women and distributing them to soldiers as spoils of war.

The Book of Judges xii, 1-13 (*Revised English Bible*) tells how the Benjaminites, defeated by the Israelites, faced a crisis when the Israelites refused to allow them to marry Israelite daughters. The Israelites agonized - "This day one whole tribe has been lopped off Israel" - then suggested an alternative supply: "Is there anyone in the tribes of Israel who did not go up to the Lord at Mizpah?"

The tribe of Jabesh-gilead, having failed to go up, was selected for

what might today be called ethnic cleansing. Orders were given to "... put to death every male person, and every woman who has had intercourse with a man, but spare any who are virgins." After the ensuing massacre, Jabesh-gilead virgins were seized as brides for the Benjaminites, and "peace was proclaimed".

St Augustine speculated how the rape of the Sabine women might be justified under rules of war. In 1385, an enlightened Richard II promulgated 24 Articles of War. One decreed that "none be so hardy as to... force any woman, on pain of being hanged".

The 17th-century Dutch jurist Hugo Grotius stated that rape was prohibited by more civilised nations. Rape in war, says Ms Brownmiller, is "a familiar act with a familiar

excuse". Calculated to terrorise, degrade and mutilate, it is a prize every soldier can win. In terms of the rules of war, it is, however, indefensible.

The second world war, Bangladesh, Vietnam all saw savage and sustained abuse of women by soldiers on a huge scale. There were countless mass rapes as well as forced prostitution in concentration camps or military brothels. At the tribunal at Nuremberg, male prosecutors shrank from going into the details: in Tokyo, no rape victims were called to testify, though evidence came from other sources.

Aggressors rarely own up. In January 1992, elderly women in Seoul protested at the Japanese government's refusal to make reparation for Japan's treatment of 100,000 Korean "comfort women".

Japan denied for decades that its soldiers were involved, claiming the

military brothels were a private enterprise, but when incriminating documents were produced, Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, finally came clean. "It is undeniable that the Imperial Army was involved in the recruitment of these women and the management of these facilities." His phraseology belied the violations involved. Survivors told a familiar tale of gang-rapes, beatings, and executions of women who resisted.

Ironically, having passed the War Crimes Act 1991, and with more and more evidence of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, the British government shows little enthusiasm for bringing contemporary war criminals to justice.

The London peace conference did not mention the violation of women's rights by the military, let alone reparation. Rapes are ritually denied by official Serb, Croat and Muslim spokesmen. Women, it seems, are peripheral; rape is so much propaganda.

But rape of civilian women in war might contravene the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. This forbids causing serious bodily harm or mental harm to members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, with intent to destroy the group in whole or in part (Article II(b)).

Article III prohibits attempted

genocide, complicity in, and incitement and conspiracy to commit genocide. "Persons committing genocide shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals" (Article IV).

For centuries, war entailed killing men but raping and forcibly impregnating the surviving women. The victorious "tribe" thereby perpetuated itself and extinguished the defeated one. Events in Bosnia, where men are starved and murdered in camps, and women rounded-up and gang-raped, echo this: "They said I would have an Ustashi child." Mass rape of this kind is genocidal in nature and warrants serious investigation.

A report by Sir John Thompson on human rights abuses in Bosnia-Herzegovina is due from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I earnestly hope it will recognise the illegal detention and gang-rapes of women for the serious war crimes they are. The legal and political significance of such crimes against women can no longer be ignored. Nor should victims have to wait 50 years for their suffering to be officially recognised and compensated by those responsible.

The author is a practising barrister.

Storms fail to halt the party in hell

Hurricane Andrew hardly dented the hedonism of Miami Beach

IF EVER there was a place that needed to be reminded of the harsh reality of life beyond the hedonistic pleasures of partying until dawn and indulging simultaneously in the seven deadly sins, Miami Beach, Florida, was it.

Miraculously, however, America's Soho by the sea survived intact, almost without a scratch, when Hurricane Andrew hit south Florida two weeks ago. You would never have believed it during the hours that preceded the arrival of Andrew just two weeks ago. The city of Miami Beach was evacuated until it resembled a ghost town. The few who toughed it out - the "come hell or high water" brigade - survived to regret their bravado. "The stupidest thing I've ever done," says Jack Donahue, a reformed drug trafficker turned catholic evangelical and modelling agency scout on fashionable Ocean Drive in the Art Deco district, "I wanted to live the experience, to feel the euphoria of danger," he says. The windows shook "like they were possessed". He went to the roof for a better view. "There were coconuts flying down the street like they'd been shot out of a cannon. The tops of the palm trees were bent to the ground like they were made of rubber. I felt its evilness. It was like my own personal look into hell, like being surrounded by demons," he says.

Yet, if Andrew was indeed the devil's doing, he goofed at the Leonard Hotel, 54 Ocean Drive. In fact he came within a puff of flattening a lavish lair being lovingly created in his own image. Yes, the roof came in on Hell - the newest, hottest, most extravagant dance club on "The Beach", being created in the bowels of the Leonard.

"It looked gorgeous," says Norman Gosney, the designer of Hell, sitting on an old sofa surrounded by building materials. "You could really see a kick-ass club beginning to come out of this. And then came Andrew. It was terrible. We were really getting the flavour of hell. At the moment the flavour is aquatic."

As well as losing the roof, several windows blew in and much of the building was flooded. The owners estimate the damage at \$200,000. Mr Gosney, born in Bristol, is a product of the Royal School of Art and a former hippie turned designer for the rich and famous. Helping him in Hell is his wife, a fashion designer for Madonna and Paula Abdul. "I try and do a night-club a year," Mr Gosney says.

Over the sounds of construction and a radio playing "Born To Be Wild", a US military helicopter flies past heading down the beach with a sling-load of food supplies for the homeless down south



Under Satan's wing? The fashionable Art Deco district of Miami Beach survived hurricane winds of 160 mph

- a reminder of the tragedy that is easy to forget in party land. Especially here in Hell. But Gosney says his hell is for the suffering folks of south Miami too. "I know a lot of people have lived through hell. This is a monument to the people who really survived and deserve some fun."

He aims for a devilish but gleeful effect. "The kind of hell I'm going for is the kind Bugs Bunny would go to in a cartoon," he says. "Cheeky without being obscene. It's an area I specialise in."

A quick tour of the club shows what he means. Upstairs each room tackles one of the deadly sins. On the walls of one room a semi-naked woman is being chased by midge in Barman costumes. There is a healthy amount of soft red velvet furnishings and spot-beam laser lighting to give the desired effect.

Reclining nudes (muscular men on gay nights and women on straight nights) are the object of envy in another room, and then there is the devil's living room. A Victorian-style family portrait of the devil with his wife and children hangs over the fireplace. There are pictures are of relatives and some snapshots of the devil on holiday in hell.

Meanwhile fellow club owners and restaurateurs have been at war with the local City Hall over a night-time curfew imposed after Andrew hit. For several days "Silly Hall", as beach wits refer to it, resisted cries that the curfew was unnecessarily hurting tourism and night-life.

City officials argued against what Tom Austin, society writer for the weekly *New Times*, calls "the unseemly appearance of fiddling while Miami burns". But the city relented

last Friday. "The dance to the music of the apocalypse goes on," says Mr Austin.

Only last weekend did the dance scene get back to full tilt. If it can be said that the beach has bounced back after Andrew, then it was the dynamic gay clubs whose bounce was most pronounced. At Paragon, which advertises "the hottest men on the planet", the popular matinee "tea dances" were restarted within 36 hours of Andrew passing.

On Saturday, the gay community turned out in force for the "Red Hot End of Summer Beach Ball", featuring "dunk the hunk", the most outrageous bathing suit contest and erotic banana eating. Organised by gay outfits, the ball raised money for the fight against AIDS.

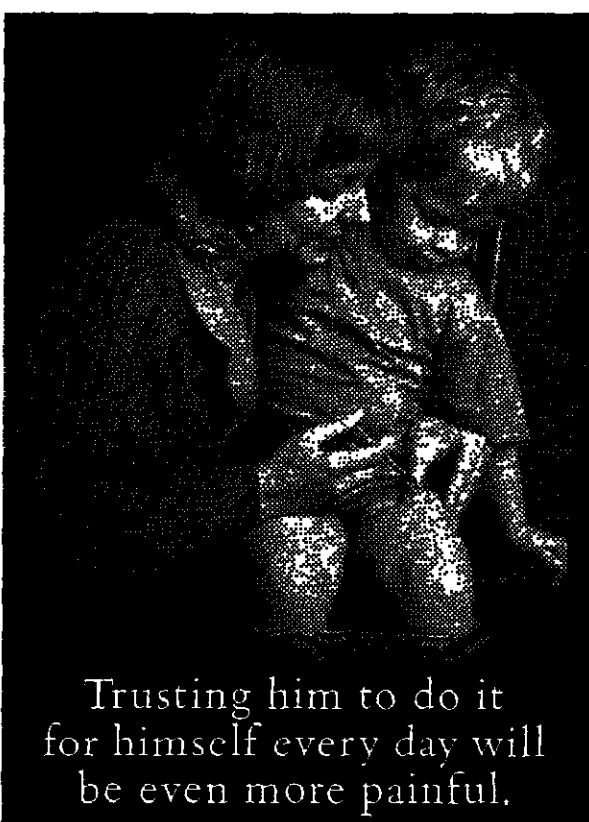
"The hurricane came and left but unfortunately AIDS is still here," says Alberto Julbe,

vice-president of Body Positive, an AIDS support group.

Many Miami Beach businessmen, straight and gay, participated in the relief effort for their fellow Floridians. Gloria Estefan, singer and owner of the Art Deco Cardozo Hotel, set up her own relief supply network with her husband, Emilio. They are also organising a hurricane relief concert in Miami on September 26, starting Robin Williams and Whoopi Goldberg, which is expected to raise millions.

Miami Beach tourism officers have launched an international advertising campaign to reassure foreign visitors. "Hurricane Andrew was an unwelcome guest, but the rest of the world's visitors are not," Mayo Villafana of the Miami Visitors Bureau says.

DAVID ADAMS



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BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

Hurrah for the aliens

Everyone I know who wants one has got one by now. Most families organise a September start; some have received and sent theirs back already — or almost had them deported. Due to an administrative hitch, ours doesn't arrive until next week. I am talking about au pairs.

The recent row over why an au pair must by law be a girl has stirred up cartloads of controversy about discrimination on the one hand and exploitation on the other. Having used every form of child care known to man or mother, I write in defence of the au pair system.

To invite a virtual stranger into your home and entrust him or her with grilling fish fingers and supervising homework for your nearest and dearest may appear extraordinary. But it can and does work, though the early stages of courtship and rituals of introduction seem bizarre to those who have not experienced it.

Once you have registered your particulars with an agency and it has banked your cheque, the process begins. You may select from a shortlist or be allocated an individual — non-smoking, pet-loving, with siblings — fulfilling your expressed preferences.

Then comes the exchange of letters. She writes to you, enclosing a small, blurry snapshot of herself taken in a railway station booth: "I am 20 years old. I study English and I envision to work in a career to speak it. I like children and I enjoy to look after her or him. I wish to improve my conversation and learn the British way of life and customs. I look forward to meet your family and I hope we shall have fun together."

To be fair, the au pair's impression of us will be just as hazy. I write a lengthy epistle describing the family and its lifestyle in as glowing terms as I can morally muster. And the children each send a note of welcome. This year my daughter wrote: "I am seven and became a vegetarian last week. My daddy eats liquorice allsorts. My mummy likes marzipan and French lager. We have two cats and a stick insect." My son only wanted to know if she possessed any computer games she could bring. So much for the British way of life and its customs.

Previously we have not used an agency, but appointed through personal recommendation. Our family has been recommended by the outgoing au pair to a

friend who would like to come to Britain. In this way, the girl arrives already briefed about our customs. We have found it helpful in the past to team up with a neighbouring family to invite a brace of friends, which minimises the homesickness and ensures that the long, late-night telephone conversations in Swedish or Hungarian have at least been local. This practice of inviting two friends has misled my children into believing they are called "au pairs" because they come to England in twos.

Even singletons soon make friends. Besides collecting college chums, the au pairs in our area are soon absorbed into the local minders' mafia. They meet up at leisure centres, mother and toddler groups, pick up one another from school, swap baby-sitting engagements with their host families and generally create their own support network.

Much of what I know about the life of an au pair in England is gleaned from their get-togethers in our house. Plenty of horror stories circulate among host families about the foibles of their au pairs; less publicly is given to the families who have neglected their visiting girls. One I heard of was allowed to feed herself only from the family's leftovers.

We have assimilated their customs, too. Hanging in our kitchen is a dried red pepper — a Hungarian token of good luck — just above the cupboard containing a jar of Swedish cloudberry preserve which no one can eat. We have celebrated alien festivals, eaten foreign fare, and the children have acquired greetings and rude words in several languages.

Perhaps the current furore will establish better controls and kinder practice. At least the business of registration may be improved. A few years ago, part of the ritual was to have each one registered with the police within seven days of arrival. For us that meant going to the Aliens Registration Office, conjuring up visions of little green men. Now you are instructed to appear in person at Lumar House, Wellesley Road, Croydon.

After strange suppers of pickled mackerel and shepherd's pie with hard-boiled eggs, the children look forward to French provincial fish fingers with interest. And I shall brush up on celebratory customs for Bastille Day. When our alien arrives from France next week, I, for one, will be over the moon.



DAVINA LLOYD

'We have eaten foreign fare and the children have acquired rude words in several languages'

National barriers are disappearing over Europe, but national stereotypes may take longer.

Jerome Burne looks at a survey of children's attitudes

As we edge crabwise into Europe, it is obvious that centuries of historical jingoism are not going to be wished away with a few soothing words about a single market. It is not only retired colonels and the Sun who believe wogs begin at Calais, after all.

But what of our children? Are they going to be true Europeans, making no more distinction between a Spaniard and a Dane than between someone from Norfolk or Cornwall, or will they still be depicting the French as onion sellers and the Germans as Gestapo agents in the year 2000?

In the first study of English children's attitudes to European nations for nearly 20 years (due to be published shortly in the *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*), a fascinating picture emerges of how children between five and ten view their fellow Europeans — specifically the French, Germans, Spaniards and Italians.

The author of the study, Martyn Barrett, senior lecturer in psychology at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, questioned 216 children from primary schools in Buckinghamshire.

The Spaniards — sunburned, happy, clean, poor and lazy — emerge as the favourites, closely followed by the French — sunburned, rich, clean, clever and hardworking. Trailing way behind the Italians come the Germans who are still the villains of Europe — white, rich, clean, hardworking and aggressive.

The most encouraging finding is that the children become less prejudiced as they grow older and better informed. Not surprisingly five to seven-year-olds are "don't knows" on many of the questions but that does not stop them having definite opinions: the Spanish and Italians are not clever, and they dislike both the Germans and Italians "a little". Most tellingly, the French, whom they like most, are the ones they know most about, while least favourite Germans are the ones they know least about.

Eight to ten-year-olds, on the other hand, are more knowledgeable and generous-spirited, although that doesn't stop them being illogical — they regard the Germans as rich but scruffy and the Italians as poor but smart. However, they still think Germans are aggressive and Spaniards are lazy.

It is worth noting that the process works both ways. According to Dr Barrett our affection for Spaniards is far from being mutual: "They view us much like we see Germans — white-skinned, blond, blue-eyed, clever, thin, hard-working, not



Viz vision: it is not only cartoon characters who develop prejudices about other nations at an early age — real children do too

nice, aggressive and unattractive."

But they probably do not imagine us as wearing bowler hats and carrying a brolly. National costume, always pretty phony, no longer features as part of even the most caricatured view. No longer are Germans typically slapping lederhosen-clad thighs while Spanish girls strut around in flamenco dresses; jeans and trainers seem to have won the day. On the other hand, national dishes are still firmly on the menu. Even the younger children see the French eating snails, Germans sausages, Spanish seafood and Italians spaghetti.

Given the rampant Little Englander stance of some of the tabloids — "Hop off you frogs" — and the relentless stereotyping in television programmes such as *'Allo, 'Allo*, what is surprising about these prejudices is that they are so mild. All the children say they get most of their ideas from television, while the younger ones allow that parents and holidays have some influence — Spain, top of this Euro-stereotype contest along with France, was also cited as the most popular holiday destination. The report raps teachers over the knuckles for not appearing to have any influence at all.

So it might seem that one way to boost Germany's sagging ratings would be positive programmes from Bavaria and regular walks for five to seven-year-olds in the Black Forest. But, although the report does not consider this, maybe Germans do not want or need a popularity boost. After all, they are seen as happy, aggressive and hard-working, with jobs in manufacturing and banking — a more dignified portrait than the Spanish stereotype of the happy-go-lucky local behind the bar.

Will they still see the French as onion sellers and the Germans as Gestapo agents in the year 2000?

Then there is an even trickier question: suppose some of the caricatures are true?

"I think that there are features about Spanish life," Dr Barrett says, "that are so different from ours that they can seem, for example, lazy, like the long afternoon break and much more late-night socialising. Similarly, if more people went on holiday to Germany they might have their ideas about German aggressiveness reinforced because there is a social style that is different from ours."

But do we not need caricatures? A lot of comedy and drama would be impossible without them. After all, England created its own mini-monetary union over 250 years ago and the English still characterise the Scots as dour, miserly and drunk, and the Welsh as silver-tongued and unreliable. Yet business is done, tourism flourishes and legislation is harmonised.

"I think a mild amount of stereotyping is inevitable," Dr Barrett says, "but it is ignorance that is worrying. It is important to have objective information about countries as well as idiosyncratic TV series like *'Allo 'Allo*. My findings show that there is a lack of knowledge about Europeans among six and seven-year-olds. Also the dislike

of Germans is really vehement and quite shocking."

It seems from other studies that, while attitudes change between six and ten, there is little change between ten and 14. In other words primary school age is a key time to affect children's ideas about foreigners.

But the experts do not know what it is that changes children's attitudes. It could be because they know more about countries from holidays, books or television, and children tend to like what they know about, or it could be that they just get warmer feelings towards people anyway. All the same, Dr Barrett suggests that more attention should be paid to Europe in the National Curriculum.

But there are problems with that. Where would it be fitted in? History seems likely to produce the opposite effect and geography already calls for comparisons to be made between an area of Europe and a developing region. Given the loud complaints that the curriculum does not focus enough on Britain as it is, a rise in obligatory Euro-projects seems likely to be up to parents and individual teachers.

Dr Barrett also makes a half-hearted attempt to pin the "German Problem" on old war movies on television — 20 years ago war comics were the culprit. But the BBC claims that no more than ten of their 1,000 feature films last year were old war movies and the figures for ITV are unlikely to be dramatically different. The BBC then cites a string of children's programmes from *Blue Peter* upwards that have portrayed European countries in a positive and informative light.

Obviously attitudes are changing. As for Germans, apart from the war legacy, it could be simply that they are too much like us.

AND BRIEFLY

Teenage targets

TWO new magazines for teenage consumers are being launched this month: *Info*, by the Office of Fair Trading, a free, one-off venture, and *Check It Out*, by the Consumers' Association, which will come out 10 times a year and cost £5.95 a quarter. Both warn teenagers against running into debt and tell them how to resist a hard sell.

Burning issue

THIS month the Natural History Museum takes as its theme "the positive and negative relationships between humans and other animals". Every Saturday there will be videos and illustrated talks to tie in with exhibitions on the subject. Today at 2pm there will be another chance to see the video *Burn, Ivory, Burn*, which kicked off the season on Saturday. For details phone 071 938 9171.

Sleep on it

AN innovation that should be making its way into gift shops before Christmas is a Tooth Fairy pillow. It has a pocket for the tooth and the fairy's present, and can be ordered directly for £7.50, including postage, from Adornment, "Mahe", 61A Scots Lane, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent BR2 0LT (081 658 2352).

VICTORIA MCKEE

If a school feels good, go for it

Parents should take the classroom critics with a few pinches of salt

Who would not sympathise, this week, with parents delivering children to their first school? It is an alarming business, after nearly a decade of remorseless teacher-bashing in the press, and of constant tinkering by a government which has called for steady effort while getting through an average of one education minister every 15 months.

Nor has it been a constructive debate. The subtle and fascinating topic of early reading has become an issue of bigoted violence. Phonics bulls have savaged the Look-and-Say brigade, for all the world like Lilliputians arguing over whether to break eggs at the big end or the little end.

If you are timid, putting a child into the state system today feels like packing it off to the trenches. You find yourself scanning the papers for the war news: how many illiterate this week? Is GCSE topping today, or teacher training? But parents, take heart. Our two children have gone through their first five years during the heat of this battle, attending a smallish state First School. They learnt plenty, but what we learnt was equally interesting: the utter irrelevance of the debate, compared to the reality.

We took the first child to an open-plan room ("Trendy, discredited theory!" thundered the new traditionalists) where he sat round a friendly little table and learned to read and number and measure with bricks. The teachers were kind, humorous and dedicated. The government began its reforms meanwhile, making it clear that modern teachers were

untrustworthy rogues following eccentric and subversive curricula, and required re-training; and that no child could learn properly unless by sitting in a row before a blackboard. The children got on with raising tadpoles. Our chronically shy son appeared, to our amazement, as a rabbit in the school play.

Over the next couple of years the teachers remained enthusiastic, but became rather harder to spot in the staffroom owing to the toppling piles of paperwork about the new curriculum. Unkind observers could get much amusement from watching the Head's face as he read the latest diktat on how to suck eggs.

My daughter arrived in time to be a guinea pig in the notorious seven-year-old tests. Her class teacher conscientiously followed the insanely complex formula, slightly hobbled by the curious decision to release the list of set books to the press before telling schools. Pushy parents bought the stocks out, and I had to comb London on the school's behalf. Later it was admitted that the tests were all wrong anyway. I do not recall anyone apologising to the teachers.

Around this time, I had the curious experience of being hired by a firm retained by the National Curriculum Council to do a video explaining the new deal to parents. I planned to give the money to the school for another computer, but unfortunately I never got paid because the video company went into liquidation. It was a fable for the 1980s, really.

But never mind. That year's play was about Ancient Egypt. My son's class were by now



Getting to the point: enthusiasm in the classroom could be a more reliable test of a good school than its results

writing fluently in English, also Red Indian sign language, and a few hieroglyphs for fun. Meanwhile the Prince of Wales moaned — in not particularly graceful language — about the decline of English in schools, and the story broke that a middle-aged graduate, Annis Garfield, had been so incensed at being turned down for teacher training that she re-applied in bad spelling as an Afro-Caribbean called Sharon Shirl and got an interview. The tabloid conclusion was that teachers were villains and only a return to the Radiant Way could save

the nation. Our son, nearing the end of his four years, took a test for a selective academic prep school and found it "peasy".

John Major delivered a party conference attack on trendy teachers "who have had their say — and had their day". Our staffroom, by then, was too bored even to react.

And so it goes on. Of course there are some bad schools, but shrill generalisations and blanket scares should not spoil the reality of the many which hum happily along. The most recent shock-horror has at last done us a favour. The news of

a decline in GCSE standards could be just the final straw we need to liberate us. Now is the time for bold parents to junk the exam league tables, dismiss GCSE as nothing but a discredited base-line which employers will increasingly ignore, and go back to choosing schools by older, more humane standards.

I gave up on the Good Schools guides after I met a woman who was taking her son away from one of the highest-rated, because: "They've never had a school play or a school outing. And the headmaster gives me the

creeps." She was right. Schools should be chosen according to their buzz, and hum, and joy of learning. The best teachers are the ones who kindle to the fascination of the world, not to curriculum units and coursework modules. To hell with grades and qualifications and SATs: we will find, state or private, a school with sparkle.

After all, they're only young once. And they say you can get to be prime minister without O levels, these days.

LIBBY PURVES

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A warning from paradise lost

Barren Easter Island appears once to have been a land of plenty. So what went wrong? Norman Hammond reports

An entirely new picture of Easter Island in prehistory is emerging from recent botanical research: the sparsely grassed volcanic peaks seen by European travellers over the past two centuries were once covered in verdant palm forest, and the bare living coked out by the islanders had once been the plenty of an earthly paradise.

That Easter Island could be as fertile as the rest of Polynesia was the considered view of Jakob Roggeveen, the Dutch mariner whose landfall on April 5, 1722, marks the official "discovery" of the world's most remote inhabited place. Why it was not suggested by pollen studies carried out by Professor John Flenley, of Massey University in New Zealand, and by an assessment of the archaeological evidence by Dr Paul Bahn.

Easter Island was first settled around AD 400 by Polynesians sailing east from the Marquesas Islands: they were the descendants of voyagers who had spread rapidly across the Pacific, from 2000 BC onwards, bringing with them pigs, dogs, chickens, edible rats, tubers and fruits.

Their physical type, language and material culture all prove the Easter Islanders to be the easternmost Polynesians: the explorer Thor Heyerdahl's thesis that they came from South America, although highly publicised by his Kon-Tiki voyage in 1947, is confuted by the scientific data.

The real mystery of Easter Island for scholars has been not the origins of its people, but how the complex society indicated by the hundreds of *ahu* masonry platforms and their *moai* stone heads could have emerged and flourished in the treeless and almost resourceless environment.

Professor Flenley's work has yielded some provocative answers. When he first saw the island in 1977, while writing a book on rain forests, it struck him as an ideal locale for palynology, the study of pollen. The crater of Rano Raraku, one of several extinct volcanoes that dominate the terrain, would have acted as a pollen trap.

The swamp that had developed in the crater had preserved several yards of waterlogged deposits: the larger crater of Rano Kau had nearly 37 feet. The changing frequencies of pollen from palms, shrubs and grasses showed a defoliation of the landscape as dramatic as anything in the Amazon region or Vietnam in recent decades.

Palm trees, identified as similar to the Chilean wine palm, *Jubaea chilensis*, suddenly vanished after about AD 1000, to be replaced by grasses. Caches of fossil palm nuts nibbled by rodents suggested that the edible rats brought in by the islanders had depleted the seed stock needed to renew the forest after it had been cleared for cultivation.

"The pollen diagram from Rano



Change of scenery: Thor Heyerdahl on the grassy slopes of Easter Island in 1986. Centuries ago, this may have been rain forest

Kau is truly dramatic, one of the most striking records of forest destruction anywhere in the world," Professor Flenley and Dr Bahn say in a new book, *Easter Island, Earth Island*. "The forest pollen reaches its lowest values around AD 1400, before the collapse of the island's civilisation about 1680. Other areas besides Rano Kau probably remained forested after 1400, they say, but soil erosion is apparent and the loss of fertile forest soils must have led to food shortages and less surface water.

One result was that population, estimated to have reached 6,000 to 8,000 at its maximum, had dropped to about 2,000 when Roggeveen arrived. Professor Flenley and Dr Bahn draw some

unpalatable parallels with the 1972 Club of Rome computer model for the future of the Earth, suggesting that population and pollution together, coupled with declining natural resources, could lead to a demographic crash like that on Easter Island.

"The timescale might be different," they say, but the "essential elements" of the Club of Rome's

model are present in the archaeological and palynological record. "The Easter Islanders no doubt believed their gods would provide a solution. We rely on our gods of science and technology, but the islanders came unstuck in a big way, and we could do the same."

● *Easter Island, Earth Island*, by Paul Bahn and John Flenley, Thames & Hudson, £15.95

UPDATE

When sex began

SEX began about 1.1 billion years ago, according to William Schopf, a palaeobiologist at the University of California. The first organisms that reproduced sexually were free-floating plankton in China, or possibly Siberia. Dr Schopf believes. Before that, organisms reproduced asexually. But sexual reproduction was an improvement, combining the traits of two parents and offering more resistance to changes in the atmosphere or weather.

"It turns out, therefore, that sex provides this variability, the varied offspring," he says. "Because of that, organisms were much better able to adapt to the changing environment."

Steamed up

SCIENTISTS have shown that the regular eruptions of a geyser at Calistoga, California, altered in frequency before three big earthquakes hit the area. Reporting in *Science*, Paul Silver and Nathalie Valette-Silver, a husband and wife team from the Carnegie Institution of Washington, show that two and a half days before the Loma Prieta earthquake struck San Francisco on October 18, 1989, the geyser's eruptions slowed. By the time the quake struck, it was erupting once every three hours, half its normal rate. Similar changes were observed before earthquakes in 1984 and 1975.

"There are too many false alarms for it to be a useful earthquake predictor," Dr Paul Silver says, "but the findings show that geological changes precede earthquakes, which researchers should be able to detect through other means."

Money smells

GAMBLERS risk more money when the right aroma wafts between the slot machines, a study in Las Vegas suggests. The Smell and Taste Treatment and Research Foundation in Chicago spent a weekend blowing two undisclosed scents between the gaming machines. One of them apparently increased the take by 45 per cent. The other scent had no effect.

"It is quite possible that, within the next few years, the use of odours as a gambling incentive will be as common as neon lights in Las Vegas," Alan Hirsch, a neurologist who made the study, says. He would not divulge the exact nature of the odour that heightened the gambling urge.

IOLA SMITH

More than 100 years after she sank, a salvage team is going after the Resurgam

Sub may rise from the depths

Britain's first mechanically powered submarine, the Resurgam, sank in a howling gale off the north Wales coast in 1880. But it is hoped that next month she will live up to her Latin name and rise again: a salvage crew is going out to find her.

The team's leader, Richard Buxton, a Gwynedd maritime engineer, recognises that finding the sub is "like locating a needle in a haystack. But providing the wreck is not totally covered in sand, we think that we can find her."

The 30-ton, cigar-shaped Resurgam lies about 20 miles off the Great Orme headland. Both Mr Buxton and Bill Garrett, the designer's great-grandson, are determined that the best of 19th century maritime technology should be

brought to the surface so that we can know exactly how it worked.

They have invested £20,000 on sonar and other detection equipment — twice the amount that George Garrett, the Manchester curate, spent on designing and building the vessel in 1879.

Garrett was convinced that a ring of submarines would protect the British coastline from foreign invasion and, after studying navigation and the technology of the Russian navy, he started designing a sub-

marine. His idea was patented in 1878 and, after developing a 14ft prototype, he proceeded to design the 41ft Resurgam in 1879.

Built by the Cochran company of Birkenhead, the steam-powered submarine was launched into the Mersey on December 10, 1879. Water was heated in a coal-fired boiler to produce the steam. The fire was extinguished before the vessel submerged but stored heat continued to produce steam to power the engine.

The submarine could remain under water for as long as the steam and air supply would last, and it is reputed to have stayed under 30 hours on one occasion.

Both the British and Russian governments were interested in the vessel. The Admiralty offered Garrett £66,000 for it, while the tsar, digging deeper into his pocket, proposed £144,000.

But before handing over the money, the Admiralty wanted to see the Resurgam at work, and

Garrett was invited to take it down to Portsmouth. The builders wanted it to be transported by train, but Garrett was determined to travel by sea. He bought a small steam-powered boat, the Elfin, to tow the sub to Portsmouth.

Had he listened to the Cochrans, perhaps the Resurgam would not be lying at the bottom of the sea today. After leaving Rhyl harbour on February 24, 1880, the boat and sub were caught in appalling weather. Two days later, the tow-

rope broke and the Resurgam sank.

The Elfin suffered a similar fate. While seeking shelter at Mostyn harbour, it was rammed and wrecked by another boat. No lives were lost in either incident.

Just as in 1880, the weather once again holds the key to the Resurgam's fate. "A fortnight of good calm weather is essential if she is to be successfully located," says Mr Buxton. "If the weather is fine, we should find her."

"On a good day last year we came across four unknown wrecks in Cardigan Bay, and previous good weather has allowed us to salvage one of the Spanish Armada's galleons off the Irish coast."

IOLA SMITH

BBC BBC BBC

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Tony O'Reilly: \$75 million earnings

Can the baked bean king conquer the Mirror?

Andrew Lycett looks at the former Irish rugby star, Heinz executive and media magnate who is bidding for control of MGN

Despite his obvious charm, the man sipping the *Daily Mirror* still has his detractors, and they like to refer to a four-year-old puff which was published in his own Dublin newspaper, the *Sunday Independent*. With headlines like "A Man for all Continents", this eight-page supplement recorded the exploits of Ireland's greatest living export, Dr A.J.F. O'Reilly. Photographs showed the good doctor hobnobbing with Henry Kissinger, Margaret Thatcher and Robert Mugabe. There, say the sceptics for all his blarney, Mr O'Reilly is just another self-aggrandising proprietor — no fit guardian for Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) which, until just under a year ago, suffered so badly at the hands of Robert Maxwell.

Such criticism only emphasises that Tony O'Reilly, the Irish rugby star who rose to be America's highest paid executive, is a force to be reckoned with. For several weeks now, he has been sizing up MGN and, although the administrator holding 55 per cent of the group on behalf of Maxwell's creditors, the banks, shows no hurry to sell, Mr O'Reilly

remains the only serious alternative to a proposed management buy-out by a consortium with *Mirror* editor Richard Siot and Sir Peter Parker at its head.

Since paying 62p a share to purchase a 2 per cent stake in MGN after its relisting on the stock exchange in mid-July, the normally loquacious Mr O'Reilly has said little, except to confirm that he still has the company in his sights. When a mystery buyer purchased 1.5 million MGN shares last Friday, the City pointed to Mr O'Reilly, although his aides deny any recent stake-building.

Earnest of the Irishman's intent may emerge later today when he dons his chairman's hat to address 2,500 stockholders at H.J. Heinz's annual general meeting in Pittsburgh. Still only 56, divorced from his first wife and with six children, he has been president, chief executive officer and, latterly, chairman

of the American food giant for two decades. After a period of restructuring, Heinz is once again performing well.

Mr O'Reilly will be able to justify his \$75 million earnings (in salary and share options) by reporting the company has increased its market share and is on target for a record year. Having achieved

certain age remembers him as a dashing wing three-quarter in Ireland's rugby team of the late 1950s. He translated his golden boy status into a senior marketing position at the Irish dairy board, where he virtually invented Kerrygold butter.

He moved on to head the Irish sugar board, was spotted by Heinz, hired as its UK managing director in 1969 and became chairman in 1987.

He is a print junkie: whenever he passes through an airport he buys all the newspapers on sale and reads methodically through them during his journey. He started modestly as a media entrepreneur, taking a mere £1.1 million stake in the Irish company, Independent Newspapers PLC, in 1973.

Within a year this previously down-at-heel Dublin company was expanding abroad, buying up the British recruitment magazines, *Miss London* and

Midweek. It moved into advertising in Europe, weekly newspapers in Essex and local radio in the United States. Mr O'Reilly says his original stake in the group is now worth £175-100 million — "the best investment I ever made".

Aengus Fanning, editor of the *Sunday Independent*, says Mr O'Reilly is a non-interventionist owner. "I couldn't imagine a greater contrast to Maxwell. His only real rule is no support for the IRA. He is a liberal in the classic sense. He enjoys a wide variety of well-written comment and opinion. He demands performance and nearly always gets it."

The barbed comments still remain. Mr O'Reilly is indignant at any suggestion that he could not raise the £250 million or so required to buy the *Mirror*. But his advisers spell out a possible strategy: he buys, say, 20-30 per cent of MGN, giving himself a seat on the board. When the share price rises, he wins both ways: he can either bail out at a profit or bid for the whole company. As Mr O'Reilly himself says: "Anyone has the right to own a newspaper if they can mobilise the finance to do so."

'I couldn't imagine a greater contrast to Maxwell. His only rule is no support for the IRA'

this, he may soon want to step down from Heinz and concentrate on his other business interests, which include his growing media empire.

The success of this custom officer's son inspires awe and some envy in Dublin, the city of his birth. Everyone over a

Why Auntie must lift her veil

Sir John Harvey Jones, ICI's former chairman and BBC's *Troubleshot*, has some advice the BBC hierarchy would do well to follow. No organisation, he says in his book *Making It Happen*, can survive and thrive in a changing environment without "a strategic one-liner".

The BBC avoids articulating that one-liner at its peril, as Michael Grade warned in his attack on the corporation's obsessive secrecy and mistrust of its own talent, alienated *en masse* by senior management's refusal to include them in their battle plans for survival into the 21st century.

"The BBC needs all the friends it can muster at this moment in its history," Mr Grade told programme makers in Edinburgh. "Keeping the public out of the debate until it suits the corporation's own convenience is a very high-risk strategy. The staff are afraid to speak publicly unless every word has been cleared with the BBC's own thought police... the silence is eerie, ominous."

Even the most ardent of the corporation's defenders cannot understand why the BBC has allowed others — from the Channel 4 chief executive to the government — to set the terms of the debate surrounding its future as a public service broadcaster past the expiry of its royal charter in 1996.

That Sir David Attenborough, the natural history presenter, should feel sufficiently frustrated to publicly decry "suicidal" BBC policies is cited as evidence of the BBC's mishandling of a crucial debate. That Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, should resort to personal insults against Mr Grade with the "bourbon in red braces" crack, rather than address substan-

Obsessive secrecy at the BBC is costing the corporation its credibility, reports Melinda Wittstock

tive criticisms in his speech, is rebuked as bad PR. It led David Mellor, the heritage secretary, to tell a TV interviewer that the BBC should "play the ball, not the man". The reluctant comments of John Birt, the director-general designate, did nothing last weekend to dispel the uncertainty.

Two years ago Simon Albury, the man credited with doing more to

'The BBC needs all the friends it can muster at this moment'

ameliorate the government's widely-criticised ITV blind-bid auction legislation than any other as the energetic head of the Campaign For Quality Television (CQT), sat at lunch with two senior BBC executives at London's Odins.

"I told them that the simplest and most reliable way to win support was to have credible people saying credible things. I told them that they should set up a group of on-screen presenters led by David Attenborough and others with the same kind of credibility to be engaged with policy development. It was crucial for the BBC to take

them through the process so they could speak out for the BBC," Mr Albury says.

"And what have we seen now? Sir David, who epitomises the BBC, attacking the BBC. And then, in turn, being attacked by the chairman of the BBC. The carelessness and contempt for talent that has created the circumstances where this could happen beggars belief."

Mr Albury, a former *What The Papers Say* producer who says his lobbying skills were honed by beat poet Allan Ginsberg and former CIA operative Miles Copeland, won the praise of Mr Mellor two years ago for not only providing him with some of the most "stimulating" occasions in his ministerial career but for also providing a "splendid example to how to run an influential and successful campaign on an important issue".

Had it not been for the CQT, an engaging group of TV performers and producers which boasted such luminaries as Rowan Atkinson, John Cleese, Michael Palin, George Harrison, Esther Rantzen and Melvyn Bragg, the 1990 broadcasting act would not have included a quality test to mitigate the worst effects of the highest-bidding system.

"Since then the whole television industry has been waiting for a clear signal from the BBC. People are desperate to offer support but the BBC has cast its supporters adrift. It has ignored its talent, ignored its staff, ignored its supporters throughout the industry by giving them nothing to support," says Mr Albury, now director of corporate affairs at Meridian, a new ITV licensee.

Only last Thursday did a copy of the BBC's blueprint for survival, leaked by a frustrated board of



Simon Albury: "People are desperate to offer support but the BBC has cast its supporters adrift. It has ignored its talent"

management member, provide any real aims and values around which to campaign. The BBC would restore its pre-eminence in drama and entertainment, and support "fair and informed national debate" with wide-ranging news and current affairs throughout peaktime, while avoiding big-prize game shows and bought-in soaps.

The policy document, which avoids any explanation of how the lofty goals articulated within it are to be achieved, was not to be published until after Mr Mellor's green paper next month.

"Finally we have something positive to campaign around. The BBC has a good story to tell. It was a wise move to leak it but why not present it to journalists properly?", says Mr Albury. "The BBC always reacts. Even Mellor made no secret two

years ago that he shared our despair that the BBC was so reactive," Mr Albury says. However, a board of management source says it was Mr Mellor who forced BBC governors to hold off with a

'The carelessness and contempt for talent beggars belief'

policy statement until after October's green paper. But Mr Albury could not be more correct with this tip on human nature: "Reacting sends signals of uncertainty: a sign that an individual or group does

not believe 100 per cent what they are saying."

Clearly the BBC is not transmitting a strong signal to its audience. A survey conducted by the board of governors into public attitudes is understood to reveal a dramatic decline in the support and affection the public traditionally reserves for the corporation. Only one-third of licence payers are believed to be satisfied with the BBC and want to see it continue unchanged. The vast majority are either don't know or don't care.

"The BBC has succeeded in divorcing the way the institution is seen, which is negative, from the way its talent is seen, which is very positive," says Mr Albury. "The BBC constitution says the governors are the BBC, but the reality is that for almost everyone, and even

for most politicians, the people who appear on the BBC are the BBC." He adds "When the single voice of Sir David Attenborough speaks, it carries more authority than a whole chorus of Husseys, Birts, Checklands or Powells."

What the BBC should do now is take aside its most popular on-screen talent — from Sir David to Ms Rantzen, from Michael Buerk to Noel Edmonds, fill them in and set them free to talk to their audiences about the importance of the BBC. Mr Birt must also reassure the troops.

"BBC management does not have to control everything: just establish the pre-conditions and let others take the initiatives," Mr Albury says. "If they've got their one-liner right, they don't have to worry what others might say."

Despite a decline in the British film industry, the market for film magazines is booming

Silver screen in glossy print

Hardly a day passes without someone, somewhere, mourning the slow but seemingly inexorable decline of the British film industry. However, despite the doom and gloom, a host of movie magazines are springing up, confounding the sceptics.

This month sees the launch of two new titles, and October the relaunch of a third. Film buffs will soon be spoilt for choice as never before, with more than half a dozen publications vying for their attention on the news-stand.

Cinema audiences plunged to an all-time low of little more than 50 million in 1984, with only a couple of long-running magazines, such as *Film Monthly*, competing for the shrinking audience of readers who wanted to know about new movies.

Three years ago, the publisher EMAP Metro launched *Empire* with the intention of repeating in the film world the success of *Q*, a monthly rock music magazine. The glossy new title, with its combination of well-written features and reviews, has won a circulation of nearly 100,000.

The company now plans to launch a British edition of *Premiere*, the self-styled Hollywood insiders' magazine, in mid-September. It encapsulates the glamour and mystery of Tinseltown in a glossy monthly package that is required reading for film stars and buffs alike in the United

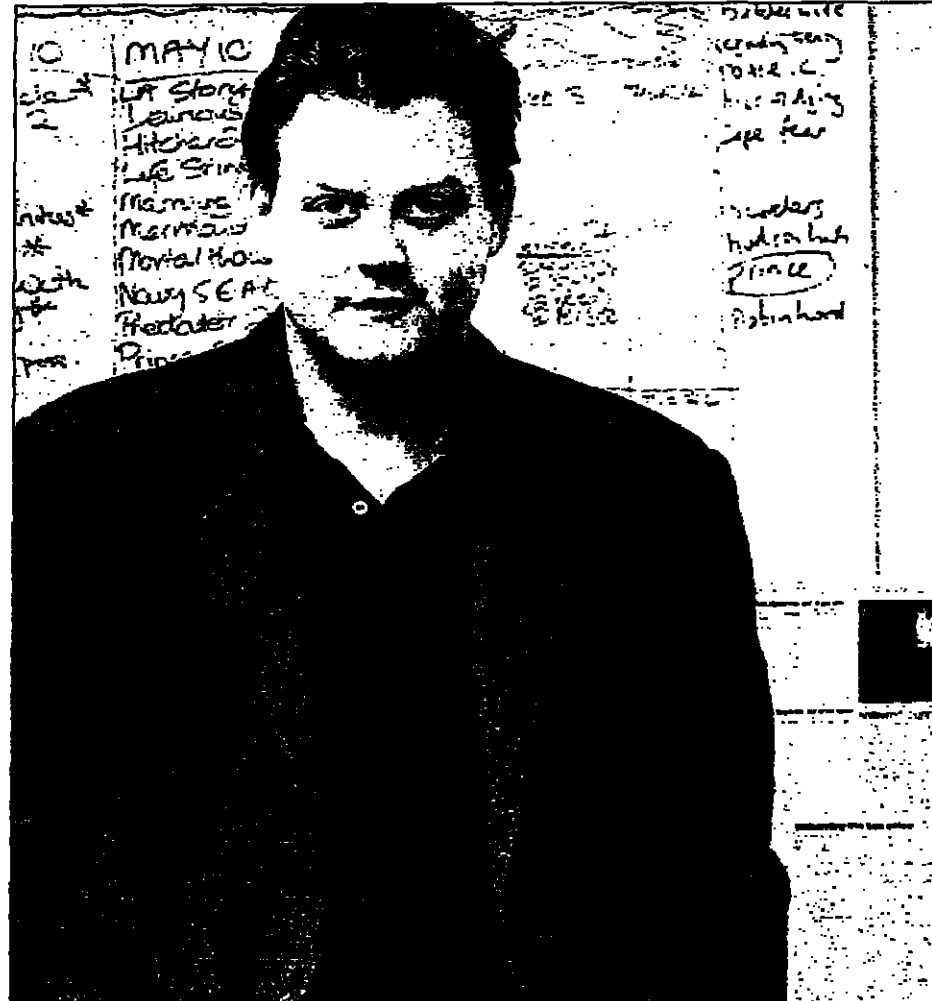


Coming soon: EMAP Metro's new magazine

States, where it has a circulation of 500,000. For two years it has only been available on import at selected shops, mainly in London. Even so, it sells 10,000 copies. But Barry McIlheney, managing editor of *Empire* and launch editor of the British *Premiere*, believes the new edition can sell another 40,000 copies. And he dismisses claims that it could take sales away from *Empire*.

"When we launched *Empire*, everyone said we'd be lucky to sell 40,000 copies," he says. "But we proved them wrong and we'll do so again. The new title is more film-biz orientated and is unlikely to pose a threat to its sister title. The UK has a more picture-led style of publishing and we'll be opening up the magazine to make it more accessible."

Later in September comes *Hit Movies*, the most audacious of the new film magazines, aimed at a teenage audience. It is being launched by Attie Futura, a relative newcomer to the publishing world, which has struck gold with *TV Hits*, another teen magazine.

In the frame: Barry McIlheney, launch editor of *Premiere*, expects sales of 50,000

of the new film magazines, aimed at a teenage audience. It is being launched by Attie Futura, a relative newcomer to the publishing world, which has struck gold with *TV Hits*, another teen magazine.

The new, bi-monthly title has a 100,000 print run. It will be very different from other film magazines and will concentrate on glamorous, young American film stars, such as Julia Roberts, Sharon Stone and Christian Slater.

Nigel Deering, the publisher, plans a low-key launch but is quietly confident about the title's chances. He says: "Some companies spend months carrying out market research before launching a magazine. We believe in finding a gap in

the market and taking the plunge."

Next month sees the relaunch of *Impact*, an action movie magazine, published by Marial Arts Illustrated and first launched at the end of last year. It claims a circulation of nearly 50,000. Its background is very different from that of other movie magazines.

Morial Spencer, the company secretary, explains: "*Impact* grew out of our martial arts magazine's film section. Almost by chance, we discovered there was tremendous interest in action films which wasn't being met by existing publications."

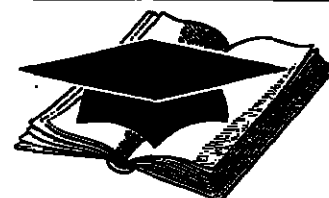
The title has a distinctive readership. Advertisements on how to build up biceps and woo women give an idea of the readership it is aiming for. Which other film magazine would carry a competition to win the latest in high-kicking combat gear?

Certainly not *Sight and Sound*, the highbrow British Film Institute magazine created by the merger of two specialist titles in 1990. The 20,000-selling publication is the only title to take any real interest in the British film business.

Sadly, focusing on home-grown films does not win new readers. As Mr McIlheney points out, commercial reasons push magazines in the opposite direction. He says: "We are not responsible for the success of the British film industry. Nine out of ten films at the cinema are American and we simply reflect what is happening in the real world."

YORK MEMBERS

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THE TIMES

MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 1992

Tender care
begins
at homeNeither councils nor tenants have faith in
plans for the privatisation of housing
management, Nicky Willmore reports

Council tenants around the country are planning a mass lobby of Parliament to protest at the government's latest initiative to erode councils' monopoly over social housing: the extension of compulsory competitive tendering (CCT) to the housing management service.

The principle of a private company taking over housing management is one which tenants find difficult to accept. "In Wandsworth we have a rapport with the local housing management staff. They are on the ground here with us," says tenant Aidan O'Roarty. "They might fall down from time to time on housing repairs, but we just go back to them and sort it out. We've found them to be accountable to us, more so than an outside body would be."

The proposals have also shaken councils. It is not simply that local authorities have failed to accept the principle of CCT or their new role as planners and purchasers of services. But now for the first time they can envisage CCT making inroads into sensitive services concerned with people's welfare.

"Housing management is too important a discipline to be left unchecked to the vagaries of the market," says Ged Lucas, housing director at Sandwell, West Midlands. "You are talking about the poorest and most disadvantaged

people in the country. To play ducks and drakes with their service is reprehensible."

Some aspects of the housing management service — housing benefit administration, for example — are as easy to envisage privatising as refuse collection or school catering. But drawing up contract specifications for the more personal elements of the service

such as debt counselling, arrears policies and prevention of homelessness is a different matter. In addition, many welfare services, such as liaising with the police or dealing with racial harassment, are not formally written into housing managers' job descriptions, require specialist skills and would be difficult to specify in contracts.

Indeed, housing officers maintain that these skills mean that existing CCT rules just cannot apply. Tender documents should require contracting companies to meet certain professional qualifications, they argue — a move outlawed under CCT regulations on anti-competitive grounds.

The view is not a marginal one. Westminster City Council prides itself on being something of a trailblazer in CCT. It has already decided to test its housing management service against the market and is restructuring the housing department to allow this to happen. Yet despite this apparent enthusi-



Aidan O'Roarty: local rapport may suffer



Urban blight: the private sector is showing little interest

asm, Westminster's director of housing Graham England is sceptical about handing over the entire housing management service, including the appointment of estate managers, to a private company. "It is absolutely vital to get the right level of sensitive management on the ground," Mr England says. "The people we deal with are often vulnerable and have social problems."

The government does recognise some of the difficulties inherent in its proposals. The consultation paper outlining its plans concedes there is much to be worked out. It is also disarmingly frank about the fact that there is at present very little private sector competition for housing management contracts.

"I cannot see how anyone would turn the very complex problems

many cities are dealing with into a profit-making venture without severely reducing levels of service," says Birmingham's housing manager David Cowans.

But optimism among council employees about the limited scope for competition is premature. Housing management is big business. Westminster alone will be putting out contracts worth £4 million a year.

Housing professionals might in the next three years find themselves working in the private sector, but they are unlikely to be without a job. The outlook for many council estates, particularly in inner cities, remains grim. Few are optimistic that social problems will improve significantly or that more resources will be found to address homelessness and deteriorating stock. As Birmingham's David Cowans says, CCT can do little to help there.

Near the top of the
tree? Look outLocal government reorganisation means pruning senior
management jobs which until recently seemed secure

More than 200 of the best paid public sector jobs in England and Wales are about to disappear as local government undergoes its biggest shakeup for two decades.

The prospect of job losses at all levels have so far scarcely featured in the debate about the government's plans for the comprehensive reorganisation of local authorities outside London and the metropolitan areas.

Yet the reality is that the main outcome of the change for a significant number of senior managers will be redundancy and the termination of what until last year appeared a safe and promising career. Those at the top of the management tree are more vulnerable than their junior colleagues to the inevitable process of merger and reconstruction that will follow the creation of new councils around the country.

Roughly the same number of front-line staff will be needed to provide services in a given area whatever the local government structure. But as soon as one moves up the management tree vulnerability increases.

According to the Local Government Management Bureau around 250 chief executive and chief officer posts may be lost as a result of reorganisation although it says most of the post holders should get other jobs.

The 12-member Local Government Commission, chaired by Sir John Banham, former director general of the Confederation of British Industry, began work on the review in the Isle of Wight on August 1.

Its five-year brief is to create a new structure of local government that reflects local loyalties and offers efficient and effective local services. The commission will tour the country reviewing councils in five annual batches. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, says he has no "blue print" for the future, unlike his

predecessor, Michael Heseltine, who said he expected to see the existing two tiers of county and district councils replaced with a single tier of all purpose unitary authorities.

Mr Howard says unitary authorities "may provide the best solution in many areas" so unitary local government will probably become the norm. But creating it is more complex than simply abolishing one tier or the other. In the Isle of Wight all parties agree that a unitary council based on the Isle of Wight County Council offers the best

to employ staff associated with an organisation they may regard as remote and bureaucratic.

Their impending fate has already begun to raise fears about the ability of senior managers to cope with managing large-scale changes at the time their own jobs are under threat. That many will be tempted to "hedge-hop" to safer jobs is a fear expressed by Robin Wendt, secretary of the Association of County Councils.

"It is perfectly understandable that managers and professionals with families will seek security. The answer is to set up a staff commission, as was done in the 1974 reorganisation, to ensure an orderly transfer."

Lady Anson, chairman of the Association of District Councils, agrees with the need to stop valuable staff leaving. "We believe district councils are the natural unitary authorities and we can offer an exciting future for the people who work for us."

John Redwood, the local government minister, said he believed that far from exacerbating the problem the gradual process of change would give time for people to adapt. "It is a very real issue and I want to ensure that we do help. Obviously we do not want this to become a great ordeal with people fearing for their jobs," he said.

No decision had yet been taken on whether to set up a staff commission but Mr Redwood said one of the review commissioners, David Thomas, the former secretary of the local authority employers' body LACSAB, had been appointed to address the personnel issues. "I hope there will still be definite career structures in local government and local authorities will still be good employers. I think there will be lots of very interesting jobs within the new local government."

DOUGLAS BROOM



Redwood: keen to reassure people fearing for their jobs

solution. Medina and South Wight District Councils would be abolished.

Avon, where the commission will start work this month, will be far harder to sort out. Merging the six existing districts to create three new unitary councils may well emerge as the favoured option. Where district councils are merged the jobs of, say, three chief officers will be done by one.

On the face of it creating, say, five directors of social services in an area which previously had one may seem an exercise in job creation. But the new jobs will be much less well paid than the old ones and unitary councils striving for a new image may be reluctant

PUBLIC
APPOINTMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

HAMPSTEAD WELLS
AND CAMPDEN TRUST

The Trustees of the Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust, a registered charity, invite applications for the post (location, Hampstead) of Clerk to the Trustees, which becomes vacant on 31st March 1993. The position is a part-time one occupying some twenty hours a week, and is remunerated accordingly. The Clerk is the Chief Executive Officer to the Trustees.

Those interested in applying should ask for further particulars from the Clerk to the Trustees, Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust, 62 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 1ND (071-435 1570). The Trustees would like to receive applications in writing not later than 2nd October 1992.

Higher Education
Statistics Agency

CVCP

CVCP, GDP, SCOP and CSCFC are jointly setting up a new agency which will be responsible for the collection of staff, student and financial statistics for the entire Higher Education system in the UK.

Applications are invited for the post of:

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Salary not less than £45,000.

The successful candidate will be involved in the setting up and staffing of the Agency and will then carry forward its work. Appointment will be for a five-year period and may be subject to a secondment.

Candidates will be able to demonstrate:

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- Experience of large data collection systems
- Up to date knowledge of appropriate information technology
- Well-proven managerial ability, particularly of a team of specialist staff
- Sensitivity to balancing the needs of data providers and the demands of customers.

CDP

SCFC

SCOP

For further details please contact:
Roger Blum, CDP
(071 637 9239).

Applications should be submitted to:
Catherine Bayfield
CVCP, 29 Tavistock
Square, London
WC1H 9EZ.

Closing date for applications Monday 21 September

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCE
STRATEGY

£50,817 Plus Performance Related Pay up to 10% + Benefits
4 year fixed term contract (renewable, subject to agreement)

Bedfordshire County Council is progressing through a period of considerable change, which has at its heart a greater awareness of our customers and their needs and a focus on the delivery of quality services to meet those needs.

Working with the County Council and other Chief Officers, the role of this new post will be to lead and manage a highly motivated group of professionals in developing a strategic approach to policy issues and providing support and advice on Human Resource issues across the Authority, which serves a population of 540,000. It has a budget of £458 million and employs 20,000 people.

If you are the right person for this key position you will have proven Human Resource skills in employee relations, equal opportunities, human resource management and training and development. In addition you will have extensive management experience at a senior level in a large organisation. A working knowledge of local government will clearly be useful although not absolutely essential.

We seek a leader with vision who is prepared to innovate, but take professional staff along with them. Well developed communication skills will therefore be critical.

If you are educated to degree level with an appropriate supporting qualification, have a proven track record in the management of change and wish to make a major impact in a progressive organisation, please write for a comprehensive information pack to:

The Chief Executive, County Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP, or telephone (0234) 228288 (24 hour answerphone). Those wishing an informal discussion on the post are welcome to contact Denis Cleggett, the Chief Executive, on Bedford (0234) 228000.

Closing date for all applications: 25th September 1992.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Director of Client Services
Director of Contract Services

Belfast City Council is the largest Local Authority in Northern Ireland currently employing around 2,500 personnel and spending in excess of 250 million each year to provide essential services to a population of almost 300,000.

As part of a major programme of change management designed to enable the authority to compete effectively in the Compulsory Competitive Tendering process, the Council is now seeking two dynamic and effective leaders to lead the new Directorates of Client Services and Contract Services.

Director of Client Services

Salary range £43,293 – £47,625,
plus 10% fixed term premium.

The person appointed must have initiative, drive and enthusiasm and be capable of building, motivating and managing a team which will ensure the delivery of quality services for the citizens of Belfast.

The new Director will develop and promote a performance-based culture throughout the Directorate. He/she will also be expected to make a significant contribution to the development of corporate management within the Authority through effective participation in the Council's management team. The successful candidate will have a proven track record of leadership and service planning at senior management level within a multi-disciplined organisation.

The person appointed will be an effective communicator capable of providing elected members with high quality advice on policy related issues.

It is the Council's intention to offer this post on a fixed term four year contract, with the possibility of renewal for a further period based on performance review. The salary will be negotiable to the current maximum of £47,625 (plus 10% fixed term premium).

Director of Contract Services

Salary range £41,412 – £45,552,
plus 15% fixed term premium.

The overall responsibility of the new Director will be to plan and manage the operations of the Council's Direct Service operations in a way which will optimise its chances of success.

He/she will therefore be a commercially attuned and business orientated professional to lead the new Contract Services Directorate.

The successful applicant will be expected to develop the most appropriate and cost effective methods of service delivery, underpinned by the principles of total quality, which will ensure that the service standards specified by the Authority are met fully at least cost.

The person appointed must be a good communicator capable of stamping his/her authority on the new Directorate and should have exceptional entrepreneurial flair and extensive experience in managing direct labour forces.

The new Director will have a proven track record of leadership and service planning at senior management level within a multi-disciplined organisation and will be expected to provide high quality advice on policy related matters to elected members.

It is the Council's intention to offer this post on a fixed term three year contract, with the possibility of renewal for a further period being based on performance. The salary will be negotiable to the current maximum of £45,552 (plus 15% fixed term premium).

For details of both these important and challenging posts please write or telephone for an information pack and application form to: Assistant Town Clerk, (Management Services), City Hall, BELFAST BT1 5GS.

Telephone: (0232) 320202 Extension 2243.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 30th September, 1992.

Canvassing will disqualify.

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER AND WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (5923205)
- 9.25 **The Lone Ranger (b/w).** Classic western adventures, starting John Ford (6536972) **G** **50** **Good Smart.** Comedy spy series (59191750)
- 10.20 **Star Trek: The Motion Picture.** The Enterprise turns to face the iniquitous computer (7078486) **12** **50** **Terrence.** Comedy quiz show hosted by Anthony Wilson (r) (5882779)
- 11.15 **Hot Rod Boogie.** Home-built hot rod cars race on Bonneville Flats, Utah (r) (4155955) **11.45 Mr Magoo.** Cartoon double bill (52442)
- 12.00 **The Murrains (b/w).** Vinay Amar comedy (r) (54040)
- 12.30 **Profiles of Nature: The Marsh.** The importance of wetland habitats for a range of wildlife species (3665)
- 1.00 **Roseanne Stripling (b/w).** Comedy series (59066)
- 2.00 **Film: The Mighty Barnum (1934, b/w)** starring Wallace Beery. Fanciful biopic of Phineas T. Barnum, the World's first shopkeeper who became a world famous circus owner. Directed by Walter Lang (287359)
- 3.30 **Real People (b/w).** Health problems in industrialised Britain (r) (3967175)
- 4.00 **A Houseful of Plants.** A repeat of the series on indoor plants (r). (Teletext) (392)
- 4.30 **Countdown.** Words and numbers game (s) (576)
- 5.00 **Samurai the World's Final programme in the series** celebrating food from around Britain (7243)
- 5.30 **If Wishes Were Horses.** The first of a six-part series following the fortunes of a group of children of mixed ability learning to ride (r) (s) (156) **6.00 Desmond's.** Comedy series set in a Peckham barber's (Teletext) (791)
- 6.30 **Roseanne.** Wiscandering comedy from Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (r). (Teletext) (791)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News.** (Teletext) Weather (177682)
- 7.50 **Comment** (390427)
- 8.00 **The Hellenes 888.** A Survival documentary about the kingfisher (r). (Teletext) (5427)
- 9.30 **Check Out 52.** Carole Peters investigates the risks to



Species under threat: a whale breaks the waters (9.00pm)

9.00 In the Company of Whales.
 ● **CHOICE:** The American scientist Dr Roger Payne has probably spent more hours observing whales than anyone else. It was he who discovered that humpback whales sing songs and he has done much to promote the idea that the whale is not only intelligent but a good friend of man. This film is partly a celebration of the species and partly a warning that pollution of the seas is threatening its future. The celebratory section includes footage of bottle-nosed whales, the rarest of all, and the first time a whale was filmed with approval of the growth of whale watching as a thriving tourist attraction. But Payne is concerned that toxic chemicals, turning up in waters as far away as Antarctica, could do great damage to the whale population as well as threatening other wildlife dependent on the sea for food. (rated, 3) (3885)

10.30 Gunned Ladies. A comedy thriller starring Leslie Grantham and John Wood. A young woman who goes missing just before her arranged marriage (3) (6175663)

11.45 Empty Nest. American comedy series starring Richard Mulligan as a Miami-based widowed medical man (3) (962088)

12.15 Sam Gyo. The second in a series of six programmes about the life and works of the Spanish painter. English subtitles (3) (371199)

1.15 Film: Women Without Men (1956, b/w) starring Beverly Hills 90210's Eriq La Salle as a woman who escapes from prison in order to keep a New Year's appointment with her lover. Directed by Elio Velasco (5857373). Ends at 2.30

TYNE TEES

[illegible]

RADIO 4

o) Stereo
6.55 **Weather Forecast**
6.55 **News** **News Briefing** Ind 6.59
Weather 6.59 **10.40 Farming Today**
6.25 **Player for the Day** 6.30
Today Ind 6.30, 7.00, 7.30,
8.00, 8.30 **News** 6.45 **Business**
News 6.55, 7.55 **Weather**
7.25, 8.25 **Sports News** 7.45
Thought for the Day 8.45
Growing Up with Grandads by
Hannah Whitley 8.58
8.59 **News** 9.00 **News**

5.30 **Punters** with Susan Marling
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope**
4.05 **First Response** from the
West Yorkshire Policehouse
where the leading British black
dance company are
performing. The studio guest
is author Christopher Hope,
and there is a review of
the new Wimborne & Sons
novel. **Written on the Body** (S)
4.45 **Short Story**: Something
about the new book

0.00 News: The Great River (PM only)
Philo Short follows
Archibald Little's route up the
Tongue river

0.00 Daily Service (LW only)

0.15 The Pilgrim's Progress (LW only)
Part seven of John Bunyan's story

0.30 Women's Hour: Canadian
actress Margaret Visser tells
her husband about the rituals of
dinner **11.00 News**

1.30 Medicine Now: Geoff Watts
reports on the health of
medical research

2.00pm You-and Yours with John
Howard

2.27 Ant & Dec Presents -500
Years of Humorous Prose:
Mind Your Manners (G) 12.55
Vintage

1.00 The World at One with James
Naughtie **1.40 The Archers (G)** 1.55 Shipping
Newsline 1.58-2.00 Minute
Theatre: In Another Life
Under hypnosis, a young man
says he was treated by
Sigmund Freud in a previous life.
A thriller by Robert Stutz

2.30 The Factor: Jeremy
Nichols is joined by George
Ashby **(G)**

3.00 News: What if...? Hugh
Gaulty died last year before
becoming Labour prime
minister in 1964. Ray
Livingston, MP, and Lord
Rodgers discuss what might
have been had he survived

5.00 PM with Winston
Frank with Valerie Singleton and
Pam Partridge **5.50 Shipping**
5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 The Healer: Christopher Lee's
political drama following the
torments of the now deposed
chief of sm and home secretary
2 (G) (G)

7.00 Mezzanotte 7.35 The Archers (G)
7.20 In the Psychiatrist's Clinic: in
the last programme of the
series Dr Anthony Clare talks
to Tony Bonner

8.00 Night Revolution: A Load
of Old Boys: Skeletons are used
to explore the past

8.30 Period and modern
Florence visits a hotel near
Leedsbury which was once the
home of Elizabeth Barrett
Browning

-8.45 In Touch (G)

-9.15 Kalamazoo (G) (G)

-9.45 Flowered White Ties (G)

10.00 The World Tonight (G)

10.40 A Book at Bedtime: Human
Voice

11.00 Stanzas: Andrew MacIsaac
is joined by Maureen O'Donoghue
Joanne Hart and Blake
Morrison

11.30 Questions of Taste: Chris-
topher Fray and drink critic
and author, Carolyn Ansell
Lawson, Michael Jackson and
Nannette Green **(G)**

12.00-12.45pm News and 12.27
Weather 12.33 Shipping
12.45 At World Service (LW only)

COMPILED BY PETER DEAN AND STEPHANIE MILLEN
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: ANNE WILSON
PRODUCTION EDITOR: PETER DAWALL

CLASSIC FM 100-102

TODAY IN BUSINESS DISCONTENT



As the Russian winter looms, pressure is growing for Boris Yeltsin to breathe life back into an economy in steep decline
Page 19

OVERCHARGED

Companies and local authorities are paying millions of pounds too much in bank charges, a survey has found
Page 17

INACTIVE



Pentland Group made nearly £20 million in the first six months, simply by resting on its laurels
Page 16

PERKING UP

Perkins Foods' pre-tax profits rose from £10.5 million to £10.9 million in the first half. The dividend is held at 1.7p
Tempus, page 18

LAW TIMES



Judges have been grumbling about their salaries for years but are unlikely to strike. David Patrick writes
Pages 23 and 25

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9967 (+0.0047)
German mark 2.8002 (-0.0015)
Exchange index 92.4 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1733.4 (+4.4)
FT-SE 100 2372.2 (+10.0)
New York Dow Jones Closed
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 18440.18 (-115.12)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10%
3-month eligible bills: 9%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 2 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills: 2 3/8%
30-year bonds: 9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1.9938
DM £1.4017
Sfr £1.2506
FF £1.7885
Yen £1.2313
ECU £1.7487
SDR £1.34109
Forex market close

GOLD

London: 343.40
New York: 343.40
Close: 343.40
173.00-172.50
New York: 341.95-342.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.25/bbl (\$20.15)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.8 July (1987=100)
Dereg. Friday's close

Sterling closes at DM2.80 in thin trading

Bath fails to resolve strains within ERM

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE firm commitment European Community finance ministers and central bankers gave on Saturday to defend the existing parities of the exchange-rate mechanism produced the intended calm in the currency market, but failed to lift the pound more than temporarily.

In an extremely thin market, with America shut for Labour Day, sterling moved towards DM2.81 during the morning, only to ease back during the afternoon as the dollar started to weaken against the mark. At 4pm, the official London close, sterling was at DM2.8002, only slightly below where it ended last week and close to half a penny above its low for the day. Against the softer dollar, it advanced to \$1.9967 from Friday's \$1.9920.

While the pledge from the weekend meeting in Bath of finance ministers and central

bankers provided fresh reassurance on the ERM, currency analysts fear that the widened gap between American and German interest rates will put renewed strain on the European Monetary System.

Market uncertainty about the outcome of the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty appears to be waning. The latest poll, issued after the European close yesterday, showed 59 per cent in favour of ratification.

The Bundesbank pledge not to tighten its key lending rates, contained in the formal statement from Bath, helped sentiment for sterling and the pound, the currencies on which the market focused after the American rate cut was flagged on Friday.

The lira rebounded 2 lira to stand at 763.40 to the mark. The Bank of Italy, which on Friday raised its discount rate to 15 per cent, did not appear

to intervene to support the lira.

Paul Chertkow, head of global currency strategy at UBS Phillips & Drew, forecast, however, that the dollar could move sharply lower against the mark this week, in the absence of any new guidance on monetary policy. With speculation mounting that the American authorities are soon to cut the discount rate again, he expects currency dealers to begin to test the European central banks' resolve on ERM. He also believes the policy vacuum that is likely to prevail until the November elections in America could allow the market to beat the dollar down quickly to DM1.35, opening the way to a 30 pence slump. Yesterday, the dollar dropped to DM1.4040 to DM1.4025.

Government figures published yesterday showed that British consumers raised their borrowing in July, indicating that the downturn suggested in the June data did not continue.

Consumers borrowed £78 million more than they repaid in July, more than reversing the £55 million decline in net borrowing in June. In the last three months, however, net consumer borrowing rose by only £91 million (£130 million rise in the previous three months).

Total new lending to consumers in July was a seasonally adjusted £4.25 billion, the highest for any month this year, up from £4.16 billion in June. But hire purchase agreements before the new K registration car sales in August might have distorted the figures.

Housebuilding data showed that a provisional 14,400 (16,000) in homes were started in July. Completions were 14,200 (15,500). In the latest three months, 43,500 homes were started, down 4 per cent on the same three months a year ago, while completions, at 41,700, were down 10 per cent.

Stock market, page 18
West must help, page 19
Comment, page 19

P&D sacks Terry Smith

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TERRY Smith, the author of this year's surprise runaway publishing success, *Accounting for Growth*, was last night dismissed from his job as head of UK research at UBS Phillips & Drew, the Swiss-owned securities house.

His sacking, for alleged breach of contract in publishing the book, comes almost a month after his suspension for a breach of internal procedures at UBS by refusing to withdraw its publication.

Under his terms of employment at UBS Mr Smith has five days to appeal.

The two parties and Random House, his publisher, are locked in legal dispute over the book. UBS has issued a writ alleging breach of contract and infringement of copyright, claiming the book is

based on earlier research produced by the author on its behalf. The legal action is being vigorously contested.

Accounting for Growth claims to take the lid off accounting techniques that could be used by companies to inflate their profits in boom times and disguise impending



Smith: best seller

financial collapse as business turns down. UBS has written to clients formally denying suggestions that it tried to suppress the book after complaints from big corporate customers who use the accounting conventions that Mr Smith dislikes.

The book was to have enjoyed a modest print run and would probably have disappeared into the relative obscurity of the specialist financial bookshops but for the furore that surrounded Mr Smith's suspension.

Random House has already had to reprint because of the strong demand, while Mr Smith was sent off on a high-profile publicity launch, including television and radio appearances.

As a reward for his labours, the book was this weekend heading the bestsellers list for paperback non-fiction.

St Andrews declares Open season

By MATTHEW BOND

THE last strawberry has been nibbled, the last chicken drumstick discarded. The ceremonial knocking over of the final champagne glass closes a remarkable summer season of corporate hospitality.

From Wimbledon to Henley, from Muirfield to Lords, what a party it was. But anyone succumbing to a bout of wistful autumnal nostalgia should take heart. Plans are already advanced on making the summer of '93 even more spectacular. In 1992, we drank to forget. Surely, in 1993, we can look forward to another memorable summer of sport finally coinciding with economic recovery. Can't we?

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews is hoping so. Today, it launches its marketing campaign for the tented village that has become part of all the main sporting events, none more so than the British Open.

The venue for the 1993 Open is Royal St George's, at Sandwich, Kent, the most southerly course on the event's rota and, more significantly for the hospitality

industry, the nearest to London. Even the R&A admits that recession has left its corporate sales a little below par in the past two or three years. That said, Muirfield was sold out well before Nick Faldo sank his winning putt.

In an effort to repeat the success at Sandwich, the R&A has launched its glossiest ever marketing campaign. "It is fair to say we have stepped up our presentation a bit, to put over what we offer in a better way," said Angus Farquhar, championship assistant at the R&A.

For managing directors and chief executives faced with a hard winter of twisting the finance director's arm, here are a few facts to be limbering up with. For only £26,000, your company will be able to entertain up to 200 guests over the four days of the Open, virtually a giveaway at £130 a head.

For that, you get your own chalet, 100 car parking passes, morning coffee, a four-course lunch and tea and cakes. There is even a flagpole and company signboard. "We could take it out of the advertising budget, couldn't we?" If

resistance is still encountered, drastic action might be required. You could offer the FD one of the two grandstand seats on the 18th green that the R&A throws into the package. But if that fails, a loud telephone call to the executive headhunters should do the trick.

Mr Farquhar believes that even in these straitened times, the package will prove attractive, especially as the last time the Open was held at Sandwich, in 1985, it was won by another Briton, Sandy Lyle. He takes heart from the fact that the event is normally 85 per cent sold by Christmas and that selling prices have more or less managed to keep pace with inflation. "We've already had a good response," he said.

One final selling point, he adds, is that because the R&A markets its own corporate hospitality, all profits from the tented village are invested back into the game of golf. For golf-mad senior executives, that makes taking a chalet virtually an act of charity.

For those hoping to swing it with the finance department, however, just one last tip. Don't mention last year's bar bill.



Bidding his time: Bob McGee, chairman, has £40 million of net cash but is applying strict acquisition yardsticks

Bae seeks partners to save regional aircraft

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A LARGE slice of Britain's dwindling aircraft industry was yesterday being hawked around the world as British Aerospace tried to find foreign buyers or partners for its loss-making regional aircraft business.

Whatever the outcome of negotiations now going on from Taiwan to America, it seems certain that by the next Farnborough Airshow in two years time at least one "British" aircraft will have ceased production or be owned by a foreign manufacturer.

Thousands of Bae workers who depend on the success of such aircraft as the 146 "whisper jet", the propeller driven ATP, the Jetstream commuter plane and the 125 business jet will be told their future on September 23 when John Cahill, Bae's chairman, announces the group's half-year results in London.

They are expected to show a sharp worsening of the £37 million loss at Bae's commercial aircraft sector in 1991 and almost certainly trigger a further major reorganisation.

Since Mr Cahill joined Bae in the spring he has been attempting to set up collaborative ventures to continue pro-

ducing aircraft now competing in the toughest market the industry has seen.

The 146 is likely to be the main victim if new partners cannot be found quickly. One possible option that has been considered is to sell the design to Taiwan, which would then take over production possibly concentrating on a new two-engine version.

Bae points out that no one country — let alone one company — has produced an aircraft entirely on its own for decades and that the industry will have to become even more international if it is to survive.

Critics, including some within the company, argue however that Bae could soon become little more than a supplier of parts to foreign civil aircraft manufacturers.

Bae's involvement in the Airbus partnership will not be affected by the sale and defence projects, which made a healthy £500m last year, are unlikely to be sold. Bae plc, the holding company, is bound by statute to limit the amount of foreign ownership in the company to less than 30 per cent. The 28 wholly owned companies set up under its umbrella are not so con-

strained enabling the sales of the regional aircraft to go ahead.

Factories at Hatfield, Chester, Manchester and Prestwick are all involved in making the four main "British" aircraft still being built.

The ATP was launched in 1984 and has only limited success even though it was the best selling turbo-prop in its class last year with 21 firm orders. The 146, now renamed the RJ and produced in four versions, has American engines and wings and even though more than 200 have been ordered has still not broken even.

The Jetstream, which comes in two versions, is still selling well and could be attractive to potential partners. So could the 125, which first flew 30 years ago but which has undergone a series of changes turning it into a popular corporate aircraft.

If all or part of these projects are sold, scrapped or become part of a large foreign consortium the implications of thousands of suppliers could be dramatic. Bae is determined to keep news of any such moves as closely guarded secret until September 23.

British Vita waits to pounce

By GEORGE SIVELL

BOB McGee, chairman of British Vita, the fibre and foam group, reported an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £26.8 million. The half-year dividend has been raised from 3.34p to 3.5p.

British Vita ended the half year with net cash of £40 million, following a £73 million rights issue in March. So far, however, it has failed to tie up any significant acquisitions.

"Our investigations continue on a wide front," Mr McGee said. However, the company was applying rigorous investment criteria of price and potential return. That caution reflected the fact that economic recovery was expected to be delayed.

In the second half, he said, the "major challenge to our management team continues to be the maintenance of margins in tough markets which show little or no growth."

The company was responding by selling existing product ranges into new markets, introducing innovative products into existing markets and developing closer links with customers.

Tempus, page 18

DEVALUATION?

You could benefit from an offshore investment in Swiss Francs

Will you lose money if Sterling devalues — or will you have joined the many investors who are moving their capital into investments denominated in Swiss Francs?

The Swiss Franc is a hard, safe-haven, currency which has historically enjoyed a low exposure to political and economic risk. In recent months the Swiss Franc has again been appreciating against all other major currencies.

You can now protect your capital, profit from a fall in Sterling, and benefit from investing in first class Swiss Franc bonds and deposits — by purchasing units in the conservative investment scheme of B.I.A. Bond Investments AG.

"B.I.A." is a well known Swiss investment company, and its scheme is recognised by the UK Securities and Investments Board, listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, and authorised in Hong Kong.

B.I.A.'s Swiss Franc bond scheme is similar to a unit trust. Investors benefit from any increase in B.I.A.'s Swiss Franc denominated unit prices and from any currency gain that may arise.

B.I.A.'s investment portfolio of first class Swiss Franc bonds and deposits is conservatively managed to maximise capital growth. Income is reinvested.

B.I.A.'s anonymous "bearer" units can be bought or sold at any time. B.I.A.'s prices are quoted daily in the FT in Swiss Francs — each unit now costs about £370.

Further details are available to investors and advisers from B.I.A.'s representatives, International Investment Consultants Ltd., who have approved this advertisement.

Please note that the price of units can go down as well as up, and investors may not get back the amount that they invested. The Sterling value of units will increase or decrease depending on exchange rate movements.

Please send me information on B.I.A.
To: David Burren, Marketing Director, International Investment Consultants Ltd.,
30 Finabury Square, London EC2A 1SB.
Telephone: 071-638 2540 or 071-588 1932. Fax: 071-638 2472.

Mr/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

Telephone

B.I.A. Bond Investments AG, Switzerland

Interest on Reebok cash triples profit for Pentland

BY MATTHEW BOND

PENTLAND Group, which made one fortune out of Reebok sport shoes and hopes to make another by reviving the Adidas brand, has confirmed that it will have to run extremely fast to beat the highly-profitable option of standing still.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 were more than trebled at £19.7 million. But the bulk of the improvement was achieved because the sporting goods company did precisely nothing.

That became possible last year, when Pentland finally sold its 32 per cent stake in Reebok for \$396 million, realising a £150 million profit

in the process. The effect of placing the proceeds from the sale on deposit was to boost interest income from £500,000 in the first half of 1991 to £14 million in the first half of this year.

The figure dwarfed the profit contribution from Pentland's other businesses, despite a 58 per cent increase in operating profits, to £5.7 million, from businesses such as Pony shoes and Speedo, the swimwear brand.

Stephen Rubin, chairman, said the performance of Speedo, for which Pentland acquired the worldwide licence in 1990, had been "particularly satisfying". Pentland acquired the Australian Speedo operation as part of the original deal and has since acquired Speedo Europe. It is also a part owner of Authentic Fitness Corporation, which runs Speedo US.

But the interim profits mark the end of Pentland's financial rest period. Following the acquisition of Adidas in July, the company admits that from now on profits will once again be a result of hard work and sweat.

Pentland paid a total of £215 million for 80 per cent of Bernard Tapie Finance, giving it outright ownership of a company with a 95 per cent stake in Adidas as its principal interest. The deal is due to be completed in November, after which, Mr Rubin says, "the mix of our operating profit and interest income will change substantially".

The company finished the half year with £345 million of cash on deposit against total borrowings of £78 million. The improvement in operating profits and Pentland's confidence in Adidas has encouraged the company to continue its positive review of dividend policy, which began last year with a trebling of the final payout. The interim dividend is increased by 11 per cent to 1.04p (0.9375p). Earnings per share rose 160 per cent to 3.69p (1.42p)



Best foot forward: Neil Franchino, chief executive, and Judy Hutcheson, finance director, yesterday

Suter likely to peg payout despite fall

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

DAVID Abell, chairman of Suter, the industrial conglomerate, has forecast that the group will hold its 8.8p a share dividend for the fourth year running, even though profits have more than halved in the period.

Suter's decline appears to have been arrested and Mr Abell reports the second-half recovery in 1991 has been

followed by a small improvement in profits in the first half of 1992. The pre-tax figure emerges at £9.4 million, compared with £9.2 million a year ago.

Earnings per share are unchanged at 5.4p, as is the interim dividend, at 3.2p, and Suter expects to pay an unchanged 5.6p final.

The profits advance, recorded in the face of a 3 per cent downturn in turnover, to £100.8 million, is due to the strength of the group's portfolio and its tight financial and management controls, Mr Abell says. Suter has interests in a range of niche activities.

Mr Abell sees no signs of improvement in the UK and continental economy, and expects recovery, when it comes, to be slow.

Balance sheet gearing has been trimmed from 80 per cent a year ago, to 76 per cent, but interest cover has improved to 5.9 times.



Abell: controls pay off

Scholl shuffles to better half time

BY OUR CITY EDITOR

INCREASED spending on promoting the Scholl name and developing its footwear and care products bit into the group's trading profits during the first half of the year. But interest on the proceeds of last year's £24.5 million rights issue allowed Neil Franchino, the chief executive, to report a rise in pre-tax profits from £11.6 million to £12.3 million.

The pre-tax figure, struck after a £420,000 write-off in connection with the disposal of the French and Belgian retail operations, has the benefit of about £1 million in investment income and a similar saving on working capital requirements.

Earnings per share, on the capital enlarged by the rights issue, have dipped from 11.6p to 10.4p, despite a £1 million extraordinary gain relating to provisions no longer required. A confident Mr Franchino is nevertheless lifting the interim dividend from 2.5p to 2.6p, a

move reflecting the strength of the balance sheet and the board's expectation of a satisfactory result for the year.

In the UK, where Scholl says it has about 70 per cent of the foot and leg care product market, the group stood up to the recession, despite continuing destocking by trade customers. The latter also appears to be deepening in continental Europe, significant in that Scholl has a large presence in Italy and France. Retail sales at the group's 150 outlets "remained dull across the board", Mr Franchino said.

Scholl still has the bulk of its rights issue cash in the bank, despite buying Gerard House, a UK herbal medicines business, and the Canadian Scholl retail operations. Further acquisitions are expected.

Mr Franchino believes the UK market for herbal medicines is "significantly underdeveloped" and offers potential for above-average growth.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Peter Blacks dividend rises after setback

DISPOSALS reduced profits at Peter Blacks Holdings, the toiletries and footwear group. In the 12 months to May 31, the company, a Marks and Spencer supplier, earned pre-tax profits of £6.6 million, down from £7.2 million. But the final dividend is increased from 2.07p to 2.17p, making a total of 2.94p (2.84p). The company said there were no clear signs of economic recovery but current trading pointed towards "a progressive year".

Turnover was down from £126 million to £106.2 million, reflecting the company's withdrawal from home furnishings and vulcanised footwear, which contributed sales of £17.5 million last time. Gearing was reduced from 39 per cent to 15 per cent. Interest charges fell from £3.08 million to £1.73 million, covered five times by operating profits.

Calderburn slips

CALDERBURN, the office furniture group formed through the merger of Alan Cooper and Mayfield last year, said the market declined in the first half and gave warning that second-half profits would be lower than in the first half. The company is maintaining the interim dividend at 2.3p a share after reporting pre-tax profits of £2.2 million for the half year to the end of June, compared with £2.3 million. Earnings were 5.7p a share (5.8p). The shares fell 5p to 134p. Turnover was down from £16.5 million to £14.9 million but operating profits were held at £2.17 million (£2.19 million).

WSP holds payout

WSP Holdings, the consulting engineering group, has held the interim dividend at 1.1p a share after pre-tax profits fell from £613,000 to £352,000, leaving earnings at 2.4p a share (4p). Despite the reverse, Geoffrey Williams, chairman, said he was delighted with the results, given the adverse trading conditions and a fiercely competitive market. Turnover was held at £5 million, against £5.3 million, but operating profits fell from £800,000 to £554,000. The company said the results demonstrated its ability to maintain market share.

Hewitt lifts earnings

HEWITT Group, manufacturer of industrial ceramics and refractories, lifted profits before tax from £219,000 to £411,000 in the half year ended June 30, reflecting productivity improvements and reduced interest costs. The interim dividend is increased from 1p a share to 1.25p, payable from earnings of 7.3p (3.8p). Turnover rose from £3.58 million to £3.74 million and operating profits from £295,000 to £366,000, with operating margins rising from 8.2 per cent to 9.8 per cent.

Fairey advances 15%

FAIREY, the electronics and engineering group, has unveiled a 15 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £8.1 million for the six months to end June. The company said business conditions had not improved, but that new products and cash management had boosted profits. The electronic and electrical power operations saw operating profits up from £3.7 million to £5.1 million. Cash funds at the half year were £14.8 million (£12.7 million, December 31). The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 3.3p.

Brammer declines 6%

BRAMMER, the bearings, power transmission systems and pumps distributor and electronic equipment rental group, saw taxable profits decline 6 per cent to £4.2 million in the first half of the year. Turnover was £56.1 million, 2 per cent less than in the same period last year. Hugh Lang, the chairman, described the result as "credible" in the light of "the very depressed conditions in all our markets". However, he gave a warning that there was still no sign of an upturn. The interim dividend is held at 4.5p.

Goodhead cuts interest

A SHARP reduction in interest charges has allowed Goodhead Group, the printer and publisher, to increase profits before exceptional items more than nine-fold to £978,000 for the year to end-May. However, pre-tax profits fell 6 per cent to £721,000 after charging £257,000 of exceptional items. Turnover on continuing activities fell 26 per cent to £40.3 million. Operating profits on continuing activities rose 24 per cent to £2.3 million. A 0.5p (nil) final dividend makes an unchanged total of 0.5p.

Kynoch falls at halfway

KYNOCH Group, the former textile company that is now mainly a scientific and medical equipment manufacturer, has announced a 17 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £380,000 for the first half of the year. Fully taxed earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 1.6p after stripping out a one-off Gulf war-related gain in the first half of 1991 and losses from discontinued textile operations. The company said that it was "encouraged" by the growth in the healthcare contamination control group. There is again no interim dividend.

Frost doubles profit

FROST Group, a petrol retailer rescued from the wreckage of Norfolk House group, has reported pre-tax profits of £2.6 million for the six months to June 30. The results are the company's first interim since it was floated on the stock market last October by Norfolk House's receiver. Profit is double last time's, after a 32.5 per cent increase in turnover to £51.5 million, mostly due to growth in the number of outlets. A maiden interim dividend of 5.5p is being paid.

Cattle's increases credit business

DEMAND for consumer credit nationally may be weak but Cattle's Holdings, the financial services group active in the north of England and Scotland, continues to expand its weekly collected credit business.

Interim results showed profits up from £3.87 million pre-tax to £5.23 million, with a 30 per cent rise in earnings to 3.16p.

Alex Robinson, a Smith New Court analyst, has upgraded his full-year profit forecast from £11.5 million to £11.7 million, rising to £13.2 million in 1993, and rates the shares a strong buy at 66p. So does Karen Neale, of BZW, whose forecast for next year is £13.3 million, and who rates the shares as "defensive and inexpensive".

The weekly collected credit division lifted profits from £4.1 million to £5.2 million, with the loan book rising £2 million to £77 million. This unfashionable form of credit is still reaching 4 per cent in depressed consumer markets. Cattle's does not rely on security for its loans and its customers do not typically have mortgages. Loan demand is picking up and despite rising unemployment, bad debts are levelling off. Benefits of the integration of Cattle's Shopcheck business with Compass, acquired last year, are beginning to show and profits from the enlarged business should rise from £9 million to £10.9 million this year.

Insurance broking is unlikely to move much ahead of last time's profits of £560,000 but can subsequently be developed further by being extended to customers of Compass.

Proceeds of the flotation of the Roseby's retailing arm reduced borrowings from £76 million to £57 million in the first half and the gearing ratio of 1.5 times shareholders' funds is the lowest for many years. This year's prospective earnings multiple is undemanding at 9.2 and the dividend yield of 8.2 per cent is secure.

MARTIN BARROW

Li Ka-shing invests in Shanghai port

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

LI KA-SHING, the Hong Kong businessman, has expressed confidence in China's booming economy by making huge investments across the border for the first time. His flagship Hutchison Whampoa group, which owns the container port at Felixstowe, Suffolk, has signed a HK\$1.4 billion (£91.5 million) deal to take over container operations in Shanghai.

Hutchison will be a 50 per cent partner with the Shanghai Port Authority, which owns the coastal city's three terminals. The Hong Kong company will pay for the upgrading of the terminals, and seek to double their combined capacity to 1.6 million 20-foot containers by 1995. It will be the first foreign concern to invest in and manage port operations in mainland China.

Shanghai's port has the largest cargo throughput in China, but is old and overcrowded. In addition to modernising existing terminals, Hutchison has first rights to develop new terminals in waters around Pudong, the city's newest industrial zone. The Chinese government is

eager to turn Pudong into a high-tech area with industries and commercial and financial services.

"The development of Shanghai's Pudong area is attracting worldwide attention," Mr Li said yesterday. "Shanghai will benefit through its growth as an economic, financial and trading centre within the Pacific Rim region."

Cheung Kong Holdings, his property flagship, is investing in another China project — the Yangpu development zone on Hainan Island.

Cheung Kong yesterday agreed to join Kumagai Gumi (HK), the Japanese-owned construction company, and Peking's investment arm, China International Trust and Investment Corporation (Citic) in a 70-year project to develop Yangpu, a barren area covering 30 square kilometres, into China's first free port and its most liberal economic zone.

Cheung Kong is taking a 10 per cent stake in the joint venture, which also includes three Chinese banks and a Taiwanese company. Investment in Yangpu for the first five years is

estimated at HK\$10 billion and total spending on the entire project is expected to reach HK\$18 billion.

In June, Siemens of Germany formed a partnership with Kumagai Gumi, Citic and Japan's Maeda Corporation to construct a power station in the development zone.

This is the first time Mr Li has become heavily involved in a Chinese project. Until last year, his only investment was in a residential development in Guangdong province, bordering Hong Kong.

His overseas investments are mainly telecom interests in the UK; oil, property and banks in Canada; and commercial property in America. His spectacular foray into the Chinese market follows a surge in interest among Hong Kong businessmen, who have been buying land, building flats and opening stores in China in recent months.

Mr Li's move is expected to fuel further interest in property and infrastructure developments in mainland China and to push up prices in its large cities.

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Nuclear power sale condemned as the ultimate madness

By Patricia Tehan and Martin Waller

THE COUNTRY'S biggest union, the Transport & General Workers Union, has described any attempt to privatise Britain's nuclear industry as "the ultimate madness".

Jack Dromey, the national secretary, speaking on the opening day of the TUC's conference in Blackpool, condemned reports of government plans for a new series of privatisations by 1995.

He said: "Britain's nuclear industry, already reeling from blow after blow from a government claiming to support nuclear power, would be reduced to a pump."

A spokesman for the Treasury, which has responsibility for the government's privatisation programme, said suggestions that further electricity privatisations were under con-

sideration following the sale of the 12 regional distributors, the Scottish industry and majority stakes in the two generators were pure speculation.

But reports suggest that the government is taking another look at proposals to split up AEA Technology, formerly the UK Atomic Energy Authority, and sell it.

Ministers may also be considering the sale of the state-owned Scottish Nuclear and British Nuclear Fuels during the next few years, leaving only Nuclear Electric under state control.

Lord Wakeham, the former energy secretary now leader of the House of Lords, is understood to have drawn up the privatisation plans before the last general election. His proposals are believed to show the

Treasury stands to make substantial profits by splitting up AEA for either stock market flotations of the parts or sales to private companies.

Mr Dromey said: "Our opposition to privatisation is not dogma-driven. On the contrary, for five years we have pressed the industry to become more commercial, to diversify and to enter into joint ventures with the private sector. But the simple reality is that there is no future for Britain's nuclear industry without government support."

The Treasury reiterated its public stance that British Rail and British Coal are the only significant enterprises on the slip-way for privatisation. But speculation that British Nuclear Fuels may be sold off has been heightened by the appointment of John Guinness as its chairman.

Mr Guinness was the top civil servant at the former Department of Energy who masterminded electricity privatisation there. The government is thought to be considering all options for raising money by asset sales, given the escalating need for public sector borrowing, and is believed to have run a slide-rule over the various state-owned agencies that could be sold.

Another option is the disposal of the state's remaining 40 per cent holdings in the two power generators, National Power and the smaller PowerGen.

The outstanding shares, which cannot be sold until next year under commitments given in the companies' privatisation prospectuses, are worth just over £2 billion at current stock market prices.

Nuclear Electric, which is making large losses, is regarded as unsaleable, not least because of the enormous cost of decommissioning nuclear power stations that are reaching the end of their operational lives.

It was this huge potential cost that led to the last-minute exclusion of the nuclear stations from the original privatisation proposals.

TUC reports, page 5

MCC administrator sells Nimbus stake

By Our Banking Correspondent

THE administrator of Maxwell Communication Corporation, the collapsed media group, has sold a controlling stake in Nimbus Records, the Welsh compact disc manufacturer, to Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, the New York investment bank, for an estimated £15 million.

DLJ has agreed to buy a 75.1 per cent stake in Nimbus, which is one of the last of MCC's businesses in Europe to be sold. The remaining shares are being retained by the company's three founders, Count Labinsky, Gerald Reynolds and Michael Reynolds.

The deal was signed last week and will be completed before the end of the month.

The deal safeguards the future of Nimbus, which makes up to 70 million compact discs a year at its plants in Cwmbran, Gwent, and Charlottesville, Virginia.

The group prints discs for most leading record companies and has recently produced records for artists such as Simply Red and Prince.

Unlike many other MCC subsidiaries, Nimbus has been consistently profitable and made £2.2 million before interest in the year to end-March last year.

The group has 700 employees and is on course to make sales of £50 million this year.

The deal is the result of a nine-month search by Nimbus's management for a new investor. Nimbus said yesterday that the new owner would allow it to continue to develop laser mastering systems and market its new holographic discs.

Count Labinsky said: "With DLJ's support, the company is structured for growth in all areas of its business internationally."

Jonathan Phillips, a partner from Price Waterhouse, the administrator, said he was pleased with the sale, which followed an international marketing campaign.

The money raised from the sale of the Nimbus stake will help to repay MCC's £1.5 billion bank debt.



Sophistication: Gert van Laar, left, and Bo Goranson, managing director

Intrum collects higher profit

ALL OF Europe is in recession, according to the head of Europe's leading debt collection agency. Gert van Laar, the chief executive of Intrum Justitia, said the deteriorating economy was making it increasingly difficult to gather overdue debts (Neil Bennett writes).

He said: "Europe is in a deep recession. Companies are becoming insolvent or have run out of cash and the ability of many consumers to repay their debts is be-

coming limited, in spite of our sophisticated methods of collection."

Intrum, however, increased pre-tax profits 33 per cent to £6.1 million in the first half of the year as its collection operations continued to grow in Britain and on the continent. The half-year dividend is being raised 25 per cent to 1p.

At the end of June, Intrum was managing a £1.2 billion book of debts waiting for collection, up 19 per cent

from December. Mr van Laar said the recession was reducing the group's success rate in recovering funds and increasing handling times, because debtors were asking for more time to repay. The group expects these pressures to cut second-half growth.

The group's new French subsidiary performed well, and Intrum is planning to expand into Spain this winter either alone or in a joint venture.

Big firms 'have blind spot' on bank charges

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

BRITAIN'S leading companies and local authorities are paying millions of pounds a year too much in bank charges because of their failure to negotiate properly with their banks, according to a survey by a firm of cost consultants.

The Bank Report, by Hunter Clark Associates, also states that banks use a series of unexplained symbols on statements that show how many days they take before they credit funds to customers' accounts.

Hunter Clark surveyed Britain's 1,000 largest companies, local authorities, and other bodies, such as NHS trust hospitals. The report shows a high degree of apathy in large groups about the cost of their banking arrangements.

Many companies still pay a single flat rate for their services. The report's researchers interviewed one business that pays £800,000 a year, and was unable to say what services it used.

Businesses and councils are also lax about the interest they receive on their current accounts. The report highlights the wide range of interest rates paid, from 1 per cent below the base rate to only 1 per cent. Ian Clark, the report's author, said companies were extremely reluctant to negotiate with their banks. "There seems to be a blind spot among financial directors about their bank charges."

"There are countless stories in the press where small companies have apparently been taken advantage of. We assumed that banks would not take advantage of large companies but they do. Banks are there to make money and if they can get a good deal from a customer they will," he said.

The report, however, dismisses any suggestion that banks are operating a cartel. On the contrary, it highlights wide differences between bank charges. One company in the survey received tenders from four banks for basic deposit services. The costs ranged from £15,000 to £28,000 a year. Hunter Clark recommends that companies tender for bank services like any other contract to get the best terms.

The report also shows that companies are losing vast sums in interest by allowing their banks to take up to three days before crediting their accounts with transferred payments. Barclays puts the letter "U" by items that will take several days to clear. National Westminster puts just the symbol "U". The banks do not explain these to customers.

On the whole, however, companies said they were happy with their banking services. The best scores came from the Bank of Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland. But companies were far less happy about the cost of their banking. Less than half the customers of all the banks said they received good value.

Steel war sends ASW into deficit

By Our City Staff

THE price war ravaging the European steel industry has sent ASW Holdings, the Cardiff steel and wire group, into the red for the first time since it made its 1988 stock market debut. A loss before tax of £2.1 million for the half year to end-June contrasts with a profit of £8.1 million last time, and the dividend has been cut from 4.5p to 3.0p. Since 1990, margins have fallen by £30 a tonne, or 15 per cent. Paul Rich, the managing director, said:

"We are getting indications that people are in pain — a lot of them are losing cash heavily in Europe," Mr Rich said. "People are going to have to realise that action needs to be taken to move margins up. But the timing on that is rather difficult to predict."

In the core steel business, volumes were maintained in flat markets and the division remains profitable at the operating level, despite the European price war. Maintained investment on the construction products side contributed to the £1 million operating loss for the group as a whole, against a £7.2 million profitlast time. The shares eased 2p to 60p.

New-look Claremont rises 22%

By Matthew Bond

CLAREMONT Garments, which supplies Marks and Spencer with clothes for women and children, has reported a 22 per cent increase in first half pre-tax profits to £2.8 million. The improvement came despite a more modest 10 per cent increase in sales to £21.2 million in the 26 weeks to June 27.

Peter Wiegand, chairman, said the company had made "good progress despite the depressed retail clothing industry". Margins remained under pressure, but this was being offset by savings throughout the business and by change the product mix.

The interim results are the first the company has reported since its demerger from Alexon Group last July. A 3.3p interim dividend of 3p paid by Alexon last year. The biggest change to the group came after the half-year end, in July, when the company agreed a £27 million takeover of J&J Fashions, another supplier of M&S. Claremont funded the acquisition through a £12 million rights issue. The enlarged group will supply M&S with over 8 per cent of its womenswear.

Rugby offered a company a day

By Our City Staff

RUGBY Group, one of the few building materials groups in Britain with cash in the bank, is receiving more than one approach a day from potential sellers of recession-hit businesses.

Alan Thomson, the finance director, said the approaches, which underlined the depth of the slump in the building industry, were coming mainly from banks anxious to handle the transactions. But Rugby, which announced a slight increase in interim pre-tax profits, in part because of interest earned on its growing cash pile, is inclined to wait until the worst ravages of the



Higham: no recovery

recession are apparent before going on the acquisition trail. Rugby reported pre-tax profits up from £27.4 million to £30.2 million in the six months to July 31 and a dividend maintained at 2.85p. Geoffrey Higham, the chairman, said the hoped-for economic recovery in Britain did not arrive and construction activity continued to decline, but there was some recovery in Australia and America.

In June, Rugby bought part of the Ward Group from receivers for £15 million. It expects to make more such purchases, of either quoted or unquoted companies. "At the moment, we're keeping the powder dry but looking to grow our portfolio when we see opportunities," Mr Thomson said. "As the recession drags on, there are some very good companies, which may become available to us."

He cautioned, however: "There is still an awful lot of bad news to come." Rugby will probably wait, therefore, until the 1992 results season is over, along with the inevitable one-off losses that will have to be reported.

Tempus, page 18

Arrogance led to bank disaster

From AFP in Melbourne

AUSTRALIA'S Tricontinental Bank collapsed in 1989 with irrecoverable losses of A\$2.5 billion due to "ordinary human failings", a royal commission has found.

It failed not because "of anything that could be called criminal", but because of careless risk-taking, arrogant self-confidence and lack of attention to detail, says the commission report, published yesterday.

Tricontinental, the merchant banking arm of the Victorian state government's now defunct State Bank, was one of Australia's biggest financial disasters of the 1980s. Resulting losses led to the sale of State Bank to the Commonwealth Bank in late 1990.

The royal commission found the main responsibility rested with Ian Johns, Tricontinental's managing director. "It was his poor judgment and exaggerated idea of his own abilities that was at the heart of Tricontinental's failure," the commission said.

But it found that all directors had acted with incompetence and complacency and had to "share some degree of blame for the total failure of the group".

Chief executive resigns at Galerias

From Edward Owen in Madrid

MICHAEL BABCOCK, the chief executive officer of Galerias Preciados, Spain's second-largest department store chain, resigned yesterday. The company is being sold by KPMG Peat Marwick, acting as receivers for Mountleigh Group, Mountleigh bought the troubled chain in December 1987.

Mr Babcock, 49, an American, is returning to the United States. He has appointed Jaime Uya, who was director general of buying and has been with the company for 36 years, as the interim chief executive.

Mr Babcock joined Galerias, which has 20 Spanish outlets, in February 1991 and used his extensive experience in American retailing to start modernising the stores that did not have computerised stock control or automatic checkouts.

Since he took over, Galerias has been offering better displays of better quality goods, mainly fashions, in a departure

from Mountleigh's initial policy of selling cheap items to get quick cash.

But the fall of Mountleigh on May 25 frustrated all his efforts to turn around the fortunes of Galerias, which has had five owners in a decade and has not made a profit since 1976. For the past few months the directors have not even been able to implement vital advertising campaigns. At one stage, Mr Babcock did not discount that he was linked to a planned buyout with Nelson Peltz and Peter May, former directors of Mountleigh, and he said then that receivership was the best thing that could have happened to Galerias.

But now Peat Marwick says that it has had only four bids for Galerias. One involves Parques Urbanos through the consultant Aserinvest, with additional interest from Zara, a successful Spanish retail chain of cheap clothes, which says it will only act after seeing the special audit for the Galerias sale being conducted by Price Waterhouse. Another bid is from at least three of Galerias's Spanish

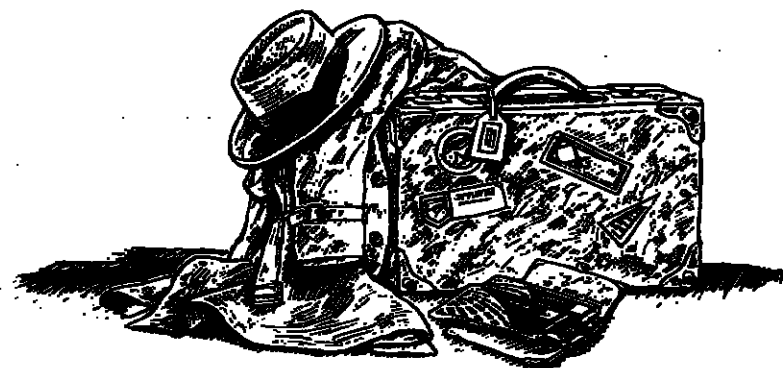
directors who are believed to be backed by the Caja de Madrid savings bank and one of two other offers has allegedly come from Hong Kong.

In a terse note, Mr Babcock said yesterday: "We have brought Galerias successfully through the autumn and winter merchandising programmes and have secured a sound financial operating base for the organisation through to next spring."

"Negotiations with the various parties bidding to purchase Galerias are now well advanced and I believe this is an appropriate time for me to step aside. I am delighted that Jaime Uya will now lead the Galerias management team."

Mountleigh's creditors have been hoping the sale of Galerias, the "jewel" of Mountleigh's assets, will bring in 54,000 million pesetas (£300 million), but at least one leading group is not bidding because of the attitude of unions representing the 7,500 employees. And the prime real estate sites in Spanish cities are losing value as the recession bites.

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COMMENT

Dealers decline
a cure at Bath

Once foreign exchange dealers have the bit between their teeth, it takes more than common sense to rein in the galloping hooves. Market reaction to the latest weekend attempt to shore up the European exchange-rate mechanism has been particularly grudging so far. The lira levitated from its floor, but not by much, and sterling struggled to sustain a value of DM2.80. Dealers are rightly suspicious of ringing declarations, which often ring hollow, but the ERM defence mounted over the past week has not simply been a chorus of empty words. Britain has pledged itself to buy £7.25 billion of sterling on the foreign exchanges by the end of the financial year. Italy has raised interest rates by an agonising amount, offering a 5 point interest rate premium. The weekend meeting at Bath may not have been a meeting of minds but Helmut Schlesinger did say he would not raise interest rates unless Germany's circumstances worsened, which is an extraordinary commitment by Bundesbank standards.

ERM parties will not be changed for months ahead. None of this rules out revaluations or devaluations in the medium to long term, but that is way beyond the normal horizon of the foreign exchanges. Within the ERM, movements have clearly overshoot. Perhaps traders were stalling in the somewhat artificial quiet of America's Labour Day or they are simply unwilling to review positions ahead of the French Maastricht vote on September 20.

There is a third explanation. The tension between the mark and the dollar has worsened since American interest rates took another downward turn last week. With the main policy makers pushing in opposite directions and most of the world in recession, something has to give. In such circumstances, it is hard for those who make currency trading decisions to accept a return to a normality that does not make economic sense.

Still talking

Deadlines at Eurotunnel have that moveable quality made famous by Gatt negotiations and, to some extent, for the same reason. Having moved towards a deadline at the beginning of September, Eurotunnel now seems reasonably relaxed about continuing talks over the endless disputes with its contractors over burgeoning costs until nearer the time it needs to draw more money from the banks, which might not be until the end of the month or beyond. The main agent banks are not so sanguine. They are anxious for the tunnel developers to come to a final deal with Transmanche Link, the consortium contractor, over excess payment claims. Otherwise, they fear, they may not be able to persuade many less committed banks to keep waiving conditions on the revised loan agreement and keep cash flowing to finish the project.

For Eurotunnel shareholders and for TML, however, there is much to be said, as in all such negotiations, for talking tough until the very last moment. The two sides are no longer far apart but the final gap is the hardest to bridge. It would have been easy for Eurotunnel to capitulate but that would hardly be in the banks' interest if it increased the cost further and therefore increased the risk on their loans. TML may, indeed, be reluctant to take the convertible loans the banks are anxious to include in the deal to minimise their cash input, while Eurotunnel cannot afford to give away too much of its equity to TML at this late stage.

This latest in the series of "crises" is another reminder of the basic flaws in the structure of the enterprise, which built in conflicts of interest. This was no way to run a railway tunnel and is no way for the public to be involved in any such enterprise in future.

Stability in Moscow

would better serve the
leading economies than
a people tired of waiting
for good times, writes

Colin Narbrough

Russian history is littered with heroic struggles against all the odds. As the long-suffering country braces itself for yet another winter of economic misery, it is no wonder that tens of thousands of Russians found the time on Sunday to visit Borodino to mark the 180th anniversary of imperial Russia's mighty battle with the invading Napoleon.

With precious little to celebrate in present conditions, the Russians, like many other peoples of the former Soviet empire, are likely to increasingly seek comfort in triumphs from the past. Looking back beyond the decades of Soviet dominance in search of continuity is no bad thing as such. The return to ethnic conflicts of bygone ages, as witnessed most recently in the Balkans, is hardly likely to contribute to the rapid economic progress so needed.

The push of August 1991 may be comfortably more than a year behind us, but the continued deterioration in economic and social conditions must increase the risk that the Russians could still be converted to support would-be national saviours of a much more inward-looking, authoritarian ilk than the leadership offered by President Boris Yeltsin. The tone adopted by the army newspaper, *Krasnaya Svezda*, about the Borodino anniversary could give cause for concern. Ominously, it called on all Russians to protect the fatherland today as their ancestors did in 1812, when it cost General Kutuzov's army the loss of 50,000 men to halt the French advance. But the do-or-die discipline of the old order — imperial and Soviet — has yielded to a large extent in the face of *perestroika* and *glasnost*. If the military class were to seek power, they would probably find themselves forced to resort to old-fashioned methods to try to lift the economy.

The drastic decline of the economy continues this year's grain harvest is again below forecast, and exports, including hard currency-earning oil, are still falling steeply. The efficacy of the cures offered by the West are understandably being questioned by the Russian public and political classes. Despite the determined efforts of Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister and devoted advocate of free-market reform, the patient does not appear to be responding.

Indeed, the question is whether the backsliding that the Russian government has allowed this year from the solemn reform commitments made to the International Monetary Fund and the Group of Seven leading industrial economies last spring



Pointing back at the West: Boris Yeltsin needs outside support to produce results in his reform plan

could turn into full policy retreat into bad old ways. The IMF does not appear to think so. Richard Erb, the IMF deputy director, made clear during a recent visit to Moscow that Russia has plenty of problems to resolve, but that he was impressed with the position adopted by the Russian authorities. He said: "It is clear to the central bank and the government that there was no return, that this is a process that is under way and that it must continue."

His remarks were doubtless intended to assuage fears in the West that the policy rift that has emerged this year in Moscow could cost the Russian government's credibility dear. While Mr Gaidar wanted to steer steadily ahead to meet the tough conditions set by the IMF, Victor Gerashchenko, the head of the central bank, took a more tolerant stance over industry's demands for more credit. Having boldly launched its IMF-approved reform pro-

gramme in January by liberating most prices and pledging to sell state enterprises, the government appeared during the summer to have given in to demands from domestic industry, which needed new loans to settle unpaid bills and wages.

The IMF has disbursed only \$1 billion of the \$24 billion aid package for Russia agreed this spring. But the IMF requires the Russians to constrain the budget deficit to no more than 5 per cent of the gross domestic product, and bring monthly inflation down to single digits in the second half of this year.

Official figures showed that consumer prices rose by a more modest 7.5 per cent in July. This helped dispel widely held fears that Russia was about to be overwhelmed by hyperinflation. Furthermore, IMF officials are convinced that both Mr Gaidar and Mr Gerashchenko recog-

nise that boosting credit and government spending is not the way to establish conditions for growth. Concern persists about the backsliders and the potential of the unreformed to exert influence over economic policy. Vladimir Shumeiko, the deputy prime minister who only entered the cabinet in June, has come out publicly in favour of the state protecting key sectors of industry to prevent the continued fall in output. His view, which reflects that of the conservative industrial lobby, is simply that Russia "cannot wait for the market to regulate all processes". The industrial lobby also appears to have blocked plans to free energy prices this year.

Critics, at home and abroad, of Mr Yeltsin's chosen route for economic reform have looked to the east for alternative paths to salvation. Even with an authoritarian communist government, neighbouring China has started to achieve growth rates that alarm officials in Peking. The

Chinese government has had to apply the economic brakes aggressively in the past to quell inflationary pressures. China grew 12 per cent in the first half of this year.

The Japanese government, which has made clear that it will not provide fresh aid to Russia until the sovereignty issue of the Kurile islands is resolved, has also suggested that the free-market remedies being pressed on Russia might be inappropriate. Tokyo wants the tiny islands, seized by the Soviet army in the dying days of the second world war, to be returned. Until then, Japan, the only major economy for the foreseeable future likely to be able to make resources available on the scale Russia needs, will not entertain Moscow's pleas. While the wrangling over remote islands continues, Japanese officials have, however, suggested that Russia would be better advised to pursue a path to economic transformation in which state corporations, as national champions, would play a key role. Protected industries would have time to come up to speed before being exposed to market forces.

Rescheduling the former Soviet Union's \$74 billion debt to western governments and commercial creditors should be decided at a meeting of the "Club of Paris" officials in mid-September. A ten-year deal is expected that will cover principal and interest payments for debt falling due by the end of next year. Russia has taken on responsibility for 61 per cent of Soviet debt. The debt problem and collapsing economy have slowed the flow of funds to Russia to a dribble. Piotr Aven, Russian minister for external economic relations, began talks last week in Paris with representatives of the 17 Western member states and organisations in the club to put back the date for repayments. Mr Aven has said Russia could only afford to repay \$2 billion of the \$7.2 billion due this year.

At the meeting of European Community finance ministers and central bankers in Bath at the weekend, the tensions in the foreign exchange market led to the virtual exclusion of all other topics. The troubles of the former Soviet Union were left unaddressed.

The British government has declared that it planned to make free trade with eastern Europe a main objective for its presidency of the European Community. Surely, that must be a goal for Germany and others too. The almost total collapse of former East Germany's markets in the Soviet bloc lay at the core of the German's difficulties in force-marching its eastern *lander* to take off. Instead of turning away from Russia and its former dominions, the West would be doing well to marshal ample resources to foster economic stability and renewal in the region. Far better for European and world growth to have a prospering Russia than a country whose people might tire of waiting for better times.

EUROPEAN VIEW

The West needs to help Russia win
its bitter economic revolution

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hough gives up
the shopping list

AS THE retail sector reporting season gets under way, BZW will find its research team badly depleted, after the departure of Louise Hough — pronounced "huff" — who resigned last week. It means Brian Corris, her former boss, will be left to tackle the season single-handed. Meanwhile Hough, after a brief break in Katmandu, will, on October 19, resurface at Warburg, but not as part of the retail team. Hough, who had been with BZW for five years, is switching to conglomerates instead. In so doing she replaces Simon Hayes who transferred to Warburg's Tokyo office as head of research ten months ago. "We have been quite choosy. We wanted someone who would fit in our team, and was capable of doing research and marketing as well," says new boss Mike Murphy, head of the conglomerates team and proud owner of a hunter chaser called *Which Way Now*. "Louise said she wanted a new challenge." Warburg's conglomerates team is rated second for business services, third for other business materials and fifth for paper and packaging. "She should fit in well," Murphy, continued. "She does not go racing and does not like golf, so at least there will now be somebody here during the summer months."

Tora's home win

JOHN Tallent, the last senior partner of W N Middleton, a constituent firm of Greig Mid-



"You may have noticed a slight rise in demand for consumer credit"

dleton or City team to challenge Sudbury in a friendly match. "I used to be a prop forward but I haven't played for 25 years," he says.

Hus frau

THERE may be fewer high jinks on the foreign desk at brokers Williams de Broe in future after the arrival yesterday of Myra van Hus, one of the highest-profile Euro equity saleswomen. She joins the team of Martin Smith, whose capers with colleagues on trains in search of night clubs in Colchester have been well documented in the City Diary. Van Hus, 43, caused something of a stir in 1986 when she and fellow directors quit Quilter Goodson to start Ark Securities. Described as "poised" and "striking" she comes across as notably more sober than her new colleagues but seems unperturbed by their antics. "I read the piece on them. No, it didn't put me off," she says. Most recently, Van Hus spent a "not entirely happy" two years at Daiwa. She quit in December and has spent the last six months drumming up sponsorship for the 1994 Edinburgh congress of the European Federation of Financial Analysts Societies, an association for investment analysts. Van Hus, on its executive board, will be chairman throughout the next congress.

SHARES in hotel group Forte are trading at about half their year's high at 262p. City wits are predicting the company will soon be forced to change its name again — to Twenty.

CAROL LEONARD

Growing doubts about shoppers' ability to buy British

From Mr J. Knox
Sir, I read with sadness Baroness Faithfull's letter (August 31) regarding her inability to buy British and then in the same edition I read Douglas McWilliams' article, which stated that the CBI considered that British industry would be in the vanguard of recovery when it came. Having recently closed my company, which manufactured exactly the type of goods Baroness Faithfull wishes to buy and knowing that many items that we used to manufacture exclusively in the UK will never be made again, for a variety of reasons, I have grave doubts about

either the Baroness or Mr McWilliams being satisfied in their quests. I am sad because we are now in the same sad predicament as the US, which, aided by a dollar which is very cheap in pound terms, should be flooding the British market with cheap desirable imports. Can the Baroness buy these American goods or find US products in the shops of North Wales or at her hairdresser? I doubt it because they don't make them and neither do we. Yours faithfully,
JOHN KNOX,
Hareville House,
Kettlesing Bottom,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Misplaced sympathy for high street banks

From Mr M.Q. Boutwood
Sir, I believe that statements in your article headed "Customers called to account" (Comment September 2) are seriously misleading. Inference is heavy that bank account customers receive everything free. What do banks do with customers' money? Not hide it in a strongroom but no doubt use it to earn interest on money markets and lend it to those from whom it was

borrowed. You may have sympathy for the banks in their current self-induced position but I believe it is wrong for you to suggest that account holders in credit should have increased charges imposed and pay the banks more for the benefit of lending the bank their money. Yours faithfully,
M. Q. BOUTWOOD,
California Lane,
Bushey Heath, Herts.

Taking issue over the question of subsidy of bank current accounts

From Mr R Bullock
Sir, You say (Business Comment, September 2) that the "banks are right to question whether the 20 per cent of customers who run overdrafts should pay the entire cost of running the network for the benefit of the majority of account holders who remain in credit". They do not, of course, pay "the entire cost": the credit balances of the other 80 per

cent earn income for the bank. An equally important question is whether the cost of running the network cannot be reduced by increased efficiency to a level commensurate with that income. Is it really efficient, for example, for a bank to maintain two or even three branches within a 100 yards radius, as is the case to my knowledge in places in central London? As for concern about cross-

Out of touch with the man in the street over Taurus

From Mr G.F. Collie
Sir, As a retired professional man with a substantial number of quoted Stock Exchange investments, I admit to being prejudiced against the introduction of Taurus. I was so glad to see Sir Andrew Hugh Smith's article (September 2) because I felt sure that my fears would be dispelled. Sadly they were not. Sir Andrew says that once Taurus is in place it will match the banking industry in terms of cost and simplicity. Sir Andrew is sadly out of touch with the man in the street if he believes that, from his point of view, modern banking is cheaper and simpler than it was a quarter of a century ago. Under Taurus, with the end of

share certificates we are to receive a print out once a year showing our holding in every company that has joined Taurus. Thus, instead of a once and for all share certificate, every year I shall have to check some 50 bits of difficult-to-read print outs in case of the inevitable computer error. Surely, the first priority for the registration industry would be to have a standard style of dividend account and tax deduction certificate. From the point of view of the private investor, that would be progress indeed. Yours faithfully,
GEORGE F COLLIE,
Morkeu, Cuts,
Aberdeen.

How quickly will I know I have sold?

From Mr F. Santilhan
Sir, Sir Andrew Hugh Smith states in his article (September 2) that shareholders will receive full details of Taurus well before any company in which they hold stock asks them to pass the necessary resolution. Though I have been asked as a shareholder to approve such resolutions, I have not

been told whether, under the proposed system, I will receive prompt notification that a sale of shares I hold has taken place. Can he confirm that this notification will be given? Yours faithfully,
FRANK D. SANTILHAN,
24, Glenwood Rise,
Portsmouth, Bristol.

Where a computer is found wanting

From Mr J. Pope
Sir, Sir Andrew Hugh Smith (September 2) clearly thinks Taurus solves all problems connected with share transfer and ownership, but no one I have talked with about Taurus has satisfactorily answered this question: as executor, will I be able to get from Taurus full details of all shareholdings, not known to me, owned by a deceased person? Having experienced this duty, and found odd share certificates turning up in unlikely places quite late in the probate procedure, I feel strongly that, with no share certificates, the chance of establishing all of the deceased's holdings reaches vanishing point, unless there is a central index by individual names. At least share certificates have a chance of showing up, as recognisably valuable, probably not thrown away, however absent-minded the old person. Computerised statements will undoubtedly be considered junk if it is known they do not constitute a title to the share. Yours faithfully,
JOHN POPE,
Cromwell House,
Court Street,
Tisbury, Wilt.

THE TIMES
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Legal practitioners remain unpopular because of their high costs and tricky ways.
Now, says James D. Zirin, they are being abused in the US presidential campaign

US civil war on 'sharp' lawyers

The Republican platform this year has declared war on the American lawyer. This is nothing new. Lawyers have always been unpopular figures. Hamlet in the graveyard held up the "skull of a lawyer" and asked Horatio, "where be his quiddities now, his quilities, his cases, his tenures and his tricks?" Carl Sandburg wondered "why a hearse horse snickers hauling a lawyer's bones". And another Shakespearean character, Dick the Butcher, drunkenly proclaimed in *Henry VI Part 2*: the "first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers". But this year, the heat is really on.

In his Houston acceptance speech, President Bush depicted Bill Clinton as the candidate of "sharp lawyers" in "tasseled loafers" who are "running wild" with malpractice suits and large jury verdicts. He proposed no specific remedy for the problem unless it was a call for American lawyers to shed their tassels, much as barristers may shed their wigs.

This attitude has become vintage Bush policy. More than two years ago, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, blasted lawyers bringing malpractice cases who "certainly deserve all the criticism they can get".

Fitzwater claimed that disdain for lawyers are the "universally held feelings by everyone who has dealt with the legal establishment". Vice President Quayle has become the Republican point man on the issue. As head of the president's competitiveness council, he charges that excessive litigation has inflated insurance premiums and thus the cost of goods and services. Accordingly, American output loses its competitiveness in foreign markets. Blame it all on the lawyers.

In America, tort reform is not really the province of the federal government. The legal system applicable to malpractice and personal injury suits is largely regulated by state legislatures and local bar associations. Thus, it is astounding that the role of lawyers should become an issue in a presidential election. But presidential candidates tend to talk about their policies in global themes more than local specifics.

Many features of the American legal system deserve re-

examination. Unlike the English model, lawyers in the US may take cases, including personal injury cases, on a contingent fee basis.

If the plaintiff loses, he owes nothing to his lawyer, and the defendant must bear his own legal costs. If the case is brought, the plaintiff may conduct time-consuming and expensive depositions. If the case is tried, there is a right to a trial by jury, even in commercial cases with complex factual patterns.

Juries may bring in large verdicts that bear little or no relationship to real out-of-pocket loss. And judges in many states leave large jury verdicts undisturbed. There are, of course, sanctions for lawyers who make frivolous claims, but they are rarely imposed.

Particularly aggrieved are the doctors whose insurance premiums have dramatically escalated in light of recent trends toward large jury verdicts in malpractice cases.

Doctors claim that they are being squeezed economically, and stigmatised professionally, by patients who see a chance to cash in when, through no fault of the physician, the treatment fails to effect a cure.

Consumer groups claim lawyers are producing higher-priced stepladders. Women's groups say divorce settlements are inadequate. As more and more people litigate, more and more litigants are dissatisfied with the result and the personal and economic cost.

The lawyers, on the other hand, claim they are being singled out unfairly. They contend they are a powerless minority unequipped to defend themselves politically.

They assert that Bush is punishing them because Clinton and his wife are lawyers, because the American Bar Association invited Hillary Clinton and Anita Hill to address their national convention, and because the Republicans failed to get much mileage with the voters out of their "family values" plank.

What the Republicans say is absurd, say the lawyers. The New York State trial lawyers' association last week accused



Vice President Quayle: scoring points

Marlin Fitzwater: disdain claim

Bush and Quayle of making "fundamentally false" attacks on the legal profession based on "questionable research".

Some of the "questionable research" is the work of Walter Olson, a senior fellow of the Manhattan Institute, a Conservative think tank.

Olson, in a much talked-about book written last year, *The Litigation Explosion*, pos-

its that "for all the many successes of American society, our system of civil litigation is a grotesque failure, a big word around the world for expense, rancour and irrationality."

The book points to a parade of lawyer horrors: unseemly advertising, the contingent-fee syndrome, discovery abuses, intellectually dishonest experts, punitive damages and activist judges who expand jurisdiction beyond reasonable limits or abrogate contracts they deem unreasonable.

Olson pleads essentially for "fair play in litigation". He states that we should work toward a law that "provides a remedy both to those who are mistreated in a wider society and to those who are mistreated by the workings of the law itself". Olson advocates due process protections for civil defendants equivalent to those attaching to criminal defen-

dants. Only then will litigation become "an exception, a last resort, a necessary evil at the margins of our common life".

Like Olson, the Republicans offer few specific solutions. In taking on the lawyers, they have made a calculated risk. They alienate few of the faithful. Clinton has received nearly \$2.6 million (about \$1.4 million) from lawyers: Bush has received \$1.3 million.

More voters than not may view lawyers as unprincipled. More conservatives and moderates may view lawyers as liberal since they are advocates for the victim in many cases.

However, there are also moderate voters whose sense of fair play may be offended if they think that Bush's attack on lawyer is—read his lips—a buzzword for denying poor people access to the courts.

The downside of Bush's strategy is that the organised bar could be a dangerous adversary. Like Churchill, lawyers make their living with their pen and their tongue.

The American Bar Association has already hired a Washington consulting firm to help to restore its image.

The ABA's membership is only one-third Democratic, and there are many Republican lawyers out there who may resent this attack on their integrity and honour and are ready to fight back.

In coming months, the American Bar may shed its

'First thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers'

Hearing mercantile cases in the regions saves both time and travel

It's a godsend. It's quick, it's specialist, it's effective and it's local," he enthuses. Graham Jump, former president of Manchester Law Society, has given his whole-hearted approval to the commercial court that was set up in the city two years ago.

In May 1990 the Lord Chancellor appointed Judge Michael Kershaw to be the first commercial judge sitting at Manchester and Liverpool. Since then, the scheme has been hailed as an unprecedented success in both cities by lawyers and clients alike. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, has just renamed courts of this kind mercantile courts to avoid any confusion with the commercial court in London.

Now after a year of behind-the-scenes campaigning by barristers and solicitors in Birmingham and Leeds the lawyers say the Lord Chancellor's Department is broadly in favour of the idea of mercantile courts for the cities conditional on the lawyers being able to identify a suitable candidate to fill the post of judge for the two courts.

"We have reason to believe that the Lord Chancellor's Department is in favour of a mercantile list in Leeds and it's really a question of finding the appropriate person to sit in the mercantile court as judge," says Leeds barrister Brian Walsh QC, leader of the north-eastern circuit and chairman of a committee of solicitors and barristers which is campaigning for a mercantile court in Yorkshire.

"We will get the go-ahead for a mercantile list when a suitable candidate can be found to become the judge of the court," says solicitor Charles King-Farlow, former president of Birmingham Law Society, who is leading the joint campaign by local solicitors and barristers for the court in his city.

Circuit administrators for the Midlands and Oxford circuit and the northern-eastern circuit say they have not officially approved the idea but they are actively considering the proposals.

Bringing commercial courts to the people

Lawyers say the courts are badly needed. Both cities are thriving commercial centres. Birmingham is arguably the second largest commercial centre outside London with over 17,000 firms issued in 1991, and lawyers in Leeds service Yorkshire and Humberside which have the largest number of firms per head outside London.

The problem facing them at the moment is that civil cases have to compete for court time with criminal matters

The scheme has been hailed as an unprecedented success by lawyers and clients

which, since they involve the liberty of the subject, are afforded priority.

Circuit judges and district judges do not generally have the power to grant commercial injunctions and occasionally no judge is available to grant commercial interlocutory injunctions.

It therefore becomes necessary for practitioners to travel to London or other court centres to make the applications. Birmingham solicitor Charles King-

Farlow says this wastes time and money.

The strongest card in the campaign for courts in Leeds and Birmingham has been the success of the Manchester and Liverpool mercantile lists, which have been so popular that an additional judge has been appointed to cope with the growing demand.

The first judge responsible for these lists, Judge Kershaw, reads all the papers in advance for a case and summonses are shorter than they would be before a district judge. He deals with urgent applications for injunctions in commercial matters at short notice.

The major problem for lawyers in Birmingham and Leeds is finding a suitably qualified commercial barrister who is prepared to take on the job of judge for the mercantile courts. Successful commercial firms with seven or eight years' experience as a QC earn three to four times the £61,600 which the new mercantile judges would receive as circuit judges. Even if the post is at senior circuit judge level the salary of £68,400 is still well below that earned as a commercial QC.

Leeds barrister Brian Walsh QC says the new judge would probably have to relocate. "Most commercial practices one would be thinking of would be based elsewhere. However despite a reduction in earnings there are compensations in moving to the north-east where the quality of life is excellent."

Walsh says the establishment of a commercial court in Leeds, which now seems likely, should be just part of a process of devolution of the court system in Britain, which he believes is too centralised in London.

"There are very good grounds for having more and more work tried where it originates. This also applies to judicial review cases. Litigants should be able to have access to legal advice and a court where they work," he said.

SEAN WEBSTER

● The author writes for the Solicitors' Journal.

The Bench needs a judgment for more pay

English judges are less assertive than some of their foreign colleagues in presenting pay claims. Unlike judges in France and Austria, they do not take strike action. They do not bring legal proceedings alleging that they have a constitutional right to a pay increase in line with inflation, a claim unsuccessfully advanced by 140 federal judges in the US Court of Claims in 1977. It is difficult to envisage an Old Bailey judge following the precedent set by a judge in Grenada in 1986 who walked out of an important criminal trial and refused to return until he was paid his overdue salary. By contrast with Sudan, where in 1981 the president accepted the resignation of 290 judges aggrieved about low pay, in this country such matters are normally resolved in private.

It is, then, an indication of the strength of the grievance now felt by many of the English judiciary that their pay has become a matter of public debate.

Earlier this year, the Top Salaries Review Body recommended increases of 20 to 30 per cent. The government decided to limit pay rises to 4 per cent. Circuit judges now earn almost £66,000. High Court judges receive more than £87,000, and law lords more than £103,000.

At the end of July, Lord Justice Parker used his retirement speech from the Court of Appeal to point out that the review body had reported that in the previous seven years "the salaries of the top groups within the review body's remit, which included the judiciary, have in real terms fallen by 3 per cent, whilst at the same time average earnings in Great Britain have risen by 22 per cent in real terms and the earnings of equivalent groups in the private sector have risen by 41 per cent".

In an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph* last month, Sir Roger Parker explained what many judges and lawyers are saying privately: appointment to the Bench, once seen as the natural advancement of a legal career, now involves so serious a financial detriment to the successful practitioner that the present pay policy will inevitably have an adverse effect on the quality of the bench. As Sir Roger (no mean advocate) put it, "the truth of the matter is that if they pay peanuts they will get monkeys".

The problem is exacerbated by the reduction in the age of judicial retirement to 70, and the requirement of 20 years' service before entitlement to a full pension. Lawyers under the age of 50 are going to need some persuasion that life on the Bench, with its additional frustrations of wholly inadequate secretarial and research facilities, is worth such a degree of financial sacrifice at a time when they have children to support.

The level of judicial salaries also sets the scale for other appointments, such as chairmen of tribunals and recorders. Parsimonious pay increases will have similarly adverse effects on the willingness of lawyers to perform such important functions.

Judges have won previous pay disputes with the government. In 1873, Gladstone wanted to reduce the salaries of High Court judges. Chief Justice Bovill wrote to Lord Chancellor Selborne pointing out that "since the judges' salaries were fixed, everything, especially house rent, servants and horses, has become very much more expensive". The prime minister had to withdraw his proposal.

In 1933, the judges successfully resisted a general economy measure of a cut of 20 per cent in all official salaries. Harold Laski wrote to tell Mr Justice Holmes of the US Supreme Court that "one judge is so indignant that he has refused to pay his super-tax and challenged the revenue people to sue him for it". Lord Chancellor Sankey recorded in a memorandum that the judges were "in a mutinous mood" and "rather bent upon giving trouble unless their demands were satisfied".

The judiciary deserves to win the present pay dispute. Four arguments are presented by those who defend low pay increases for judges. None of them has any force. First, it is said that by the standards of most people judges earn a very large sum of money. This is true, but irrelevant to questions of supply and demand that govern the quality of the Bench. Second, in a recession the country cannot afford large pay increases.

This is false. As Lord Justice Parker observed, the total pay bill for all the groups within the review body's remit was less than one quarter of 1 per cent of the total government pay bill.

Third, lawyers can always be found to fill vacancies on the Bench. This is true but ignores the vital question of the quality of appointments. Fourth, it would be unseemly for judges to receive pay increases when others are having to tighten their belts. But if the case for larger pay increases is made out on its merits, the argument is not weakened because some people may wrongly fail to understand the justification for those increases.

The root of the problem now, as it was in 1873 and 1933, is that pay rates for an independent judiciary should not be set by the executive, the most frequent client of the courts. A system of independent and binding arbitration should be introduced as soon as possible.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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UK companies can sue successfully in the US. William Manser explains how

Britons win in America

In recent weeks, Standard Chartered, the UK-based international banking group, has been awarded or has settled claims in the United States totalling \$400 million (about £210 million). These successes — against two of the world's biggest accounting firms — provide evidence that British companies need not be put off litigation in the US if they prepare their ground, obtain the best local counsel and actively manage the process.

The history of the claims goes back to 1988. That year Standard Chartered sold the United Bank of Arizona, incurring a considerable loss and its Hong Kong branch lent \$90 million to Miniscribe, a Colorado-based disc-drive manufacturer, that was later to go into Chapter XI bankruptcy. It so happened that in the same year Standard Chartered set up a group legal department, the first in its 130-year history. When the losses were exposed, the department took responsibility for pursuing claims against the respective auditors, putting its faith in a Phoenix firm with a growing reputation.

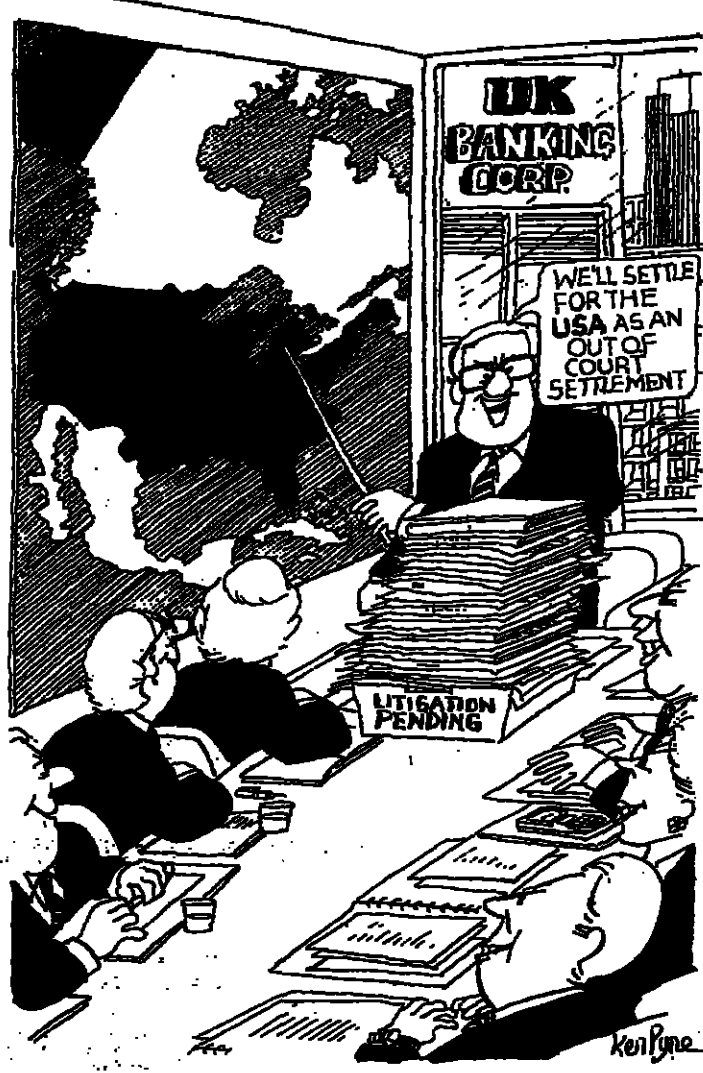
The first claim in Arizona was against Price Waterhouse, the original auditors to United Bank. When Standard Chartered had bought the bank in the previous year, it had insisted on warranties for the bank's predicted continuing financial condition.

In the action that followed, Standard Chartered argued that it had relied on the audited accounts and on Price Waterhouse's stated knowledge of the bank.

During the trial, however, it became clear that Price Waterhouse had used inexperienced, unsupervised auditors and therefore failed to recognise a fundamental breakdown in internal controls and \$60 million of unreported losses.

During trial, the Price Waterhouse engagement partner testified that in the 12 years he had been on the audit, he had never seen a loan file and did not understand the bank's system of internal controls. Staff accountants who purported to test the collectability of loans did not understand such things as the difference between a borrower's gross and net income, or what a letter of credit was.

Price Waterhouse unsuccessfully tried to persuade the jury that its audits met auditing standards. According to trial testimony, it cost



Price Waterhouse more than \$2 million for an accounting expert from Coopers & Lybrand to testify on its behalf. Price Waterhouse's damages expert, who was paid \$1.5 million, agreed that \$338 million was a "reasonable estimate" of the loss suffered by Standard Chartered on its investment in United Bank.

After an 11-month trial, Price Waterhouse was ordered to pay the full amount of the claim, based on Arizona securities law, negligence and misrepresentation.

The Miniscribe case in Colorado also involved a negligence action against auditors, this time Coopers & Lybrand. Miniscribe had been audited by Coopers for several years. Its management was led by appointees of Hambrecht & Quist, a San Francisco-based investment bank with an equity stake in the company. Miniscribe had achieved impressive rates of growth through the 1980s and was seeking to shore up a flagging market by employing devices that gave the appearance of increased sales, stock and receivables. Its most notorious practice was to package bricks instead of computer discs and claim

them as sales. And it began booking products sold on a sale-or-return basis as actual sales.

Standard Chartered argued that Coopers was aware of the latter practice and willingly joined in the deception. When the inevitable happened, there was little of value left in the company for creditors and shareholders. Individual actions were then begun by numerous plaintiffs against Coopers & Lybrand, Hambrecht & Quist and several directors.

In one action earlier this year, a jury awarded Texan bond holders \$550 million, a figure subsequently reduced to well under \$100 million in an out-of-court settlement. Standard Chartered's case was consolidated with others in Denver.

The first hearing was due to take place this month. However, the court instructed a compulsory mediation process involving all the parties. At one stage, more than 40 lawyers were involved in the negotiations.

An element of near farce was introduced into the proceedings when, at a key stage, negotiations were being conducted between New York, London and a call box in Euro Disney, the temporary retreat of Standard Chartered's head of legal services. In spite of the almost byzantine difficulty of satisfying all the parties, agreement was ultimately reached. Standard Chartered settled for \$62 million payable over time.

At one stage, more than 40 lawyers were involved

The experiences highlight several fundamental differences from the UK system — the settlement processes, the use of juries and the level of the potential risks and rewards.

The law, too, is different. The Caparo case, recently given a surprising boost by the Cadbury Committee, would have severely restricted similar claims in the UK.

The story is not yet at an end. Price Waterhouse has stated its intention to appeal. To do this, the accounting firm must put up a bond of 120 per cent of the award: more than \$400 million. If it gets over this hurdle, Standard Chartered will aim to restore some of its own claims which were lost on the way — particularly exemplary and treble damages. Standard Chartered's legal team seems unlikely to be able to enjoy Euro Disney undisturbed for a while yet.

● The author is the group public affairs manager of Standard & Chartered Bank.



Learning on the job: students at Macfarlanes, a City firm, on a visit to the Law Courts

Legal lessons from the inside

Being a student today, with miserly grants and diminishing career prospects, is not much fun. But for a lucky few there has been the chance during the summer vacation to sample the pleasures of life in a law office and stake their claim to a possible job in a year or two's time.

Talking to undergraduates on attachment with City firms during underlines just how bleak morale is on most university campuses. "People are feeling very scared about going out on the employment market," said Vicky Butcher, a second-year student from St John's College, Oxford. "A lot of people I know plan to delay having to look for a job for as long as possible by going on post-graduate courses or travelling."

Like many of the vacation course students, Miss Butcher is a non-lawyer, but is sampling the profession to test whether it might be right for her.

In a turbulent employment scene, law is seen as one of the safest career options and is attracting even more interest than usual for the right students from other disciplines.

Because firms are more interested in talent than degree prospects this could be bad news for the law graduates.

"Given the downturn in the number of jobs and the intense competition, there is a growing fear that lawyers with 2.2s may be squeezed out by historians with firsts," said Jane MacCarthy, a lawyer from Durham University on attachment with Macfarlanes, a leading City law firm.

The glut of good candidates is even making some firms question whether it is worth continuing to host undergraduates during the summer.

In a difficult job market, work experience can give students a good start

The senior partner of a leading City firm said: "To make it work properly requires an enormous investment of time and effort by us. In view of the number of applications for traineeships we get every year, I am starting to doubt the value of it from our point of view. Sifting applications take a lot of time."

Notwithstanding the over-supply of candidates for traineeships, top quality applicants will continue to be sought. The vacation scheme offers a good opportunity for firms to put across a favourable image, which will radiate through the

The youngsters will usually apply to come back for a traineeship

wider student population by word of mouth.

"What struck me about the firm is how genuinely friendly and informal it is," said one student attached to Freshfields. "The firm is so large that I thought it would be faceless and impersonal — but it is not."

"The lawyers here make special efforts to give you a real sense of belonging to a department, and you derive your sense of identity from that."

There is no question that students would be markedly poorer for

not having a chance to see real lawyers at work. Courses at many universities are still highly academic and give students little insight into the profession for which they are preparing.

"Frankly," said one student, "I was very bored by my course and was feeling disenchanted with the law, but my attachment has revived my interest."

"When you see the law in action, you realise how exciting it can be and what a buzz it gives people — so different from the dry-as-dust stuff we study at college."

In most cases, there is enthusiasm among students for the firms they visit. Almost without exception, they apply to come back for a traineeship. And in some cases, they will have made a big enough impression to be at an advantage when they subsequently apply. Above all, the vacation scheme gives students with forceful characters a chance to stand out.

"Before coming on my attachment to a City law firm, I spent a year at the University of Strasbourg," said Emma McVey, a Leicester University student, studying law and French. "There is a growing demand for lawyers to be able to speak a foreign language and during my attachment I had the chance to use my French on a transaction. I think it gave me a chance to show I could be useful."

Of course, not all the students will realise their ambitions to work for top firms because the recruitment round over the next year or two will probably be tight. However, it is possible that by the time the other graduates qualify in the mid 1990s Britain will be back in boom and firms will again be fighting for the services of graduates.

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**NEWS
OF THE
WORLD**

Pygmies now fill the shoes of yesterday's giants

The world heavyweight championship should have been eaten by the 100th birthday cake this year to celebrate the first heavyweight title bout between John L. Sullivan and Gentleman Jim Corbett on September 7 at New Orleans, which Corbett won in the 21st round. Instead, the cake is looking rather like the cake of W. H. Auden that was left out in the rain. The cake was Auden's face. It could also be the face of the heavyweight championship.

Mike Tyson, the most charismatic figure, departed in disgrace this year and those left behind to contest the championship are not quite the stuff of legends that made the heavyweight championship the greatest prize in sport. The sport itself and its greedy administrators have become the subject of a Senate investigation in the United States.

Tyson was beginning to revive the romance of the

heavyweight championship. He was a large slice of the old days, a pugilist, a Sullivan, and curiously he was beaten by a Corbett in James "Buster" Douglas. A boxing historian himself, Tyson was bringing back to the game a sense of history. He filled the void left by the demise of Muhammad Ali.

How long would it take Evander Holyfield, the world champion, or his challengers, among them Lennox Lewis and Frank Bruno of Britain, Razor Ruddock and Riddick Bowe, to achieve that kind of standing? Will people ever wonder how Bruno would have fared against Ali? Or Bowe against Marciano? Or Lewis against Louis?

If Lewis defeats Ruddock in October and brings the world title back to England, 93 years after Bob Fitzsimmons won it, Lewis might revive, at least for Britain, some of the excitement of the old days. If Lewis fails to beat Holyfield, Bruno

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, sighs for the days when the world heavyweight championship was the greatest prize in sport and laments its decline into mediocrity

could step in with a puncher's chance.

If he could stand up to Tyson at his most frightening for five rounds and stun him in the first, he could have a fair chance of knocking out Holyfield, a smaller man than Tyson.

Bruno as world champion! That would bring the house down. There would be a fly-past, a march-past, and a naval review to celebrate the occasion. The Americans, who have dominated the title for 32 years, would be left asking what happened to the heavyweight championship of Sullivan, Corbett, Johnson, Dempsey, Louis, Marciano, Ali and Tyson. Sullivan

popularised boxing, Corbett added the science, Johnson the class. Dempsey set the record of the first million dollar gate.

Louis, who reigned for 11 years and 252 days, broke the white domination that had lasted 22 years.

Marciano set an unbeaten record of 49 victories. Ali wrote the textbooks and opened the doors to big money. Tyson became the youngest, at 20, to win the world title.

The slide to mediocrity started with the arrival of big money. Boxers had always been paid well. Tunney re-

ceived \$1 million for a second meeting in 1927 with Dempsey, who himself made \$10 million in his 24-year career. Liston and Patterson each received \$1,434,000 for their bout in 1963. But the sums talked about now are bigger even than the purses paid to Ali and Foreman, who received \$5 million each for the "Rumble in the Jungle" in 1974.

From 11 title bouts in four years, Tyson is believed to have earned all of \$50 million, passing the record \$69 million by Ali during his 14-year career.

If Tyson had kept on earning at this rate and passed Louis's record reign of 11 years, he would have made around \$300 million by the time he was 32.

It was thought that by the turn of the century the man who was the world heavyweight champion would earn around \$50 million a bout. Pay-per-view customers

would rise from 35 million to 100 million. Each viewing would cost \$25. No wonder then that the big American promoter, Don King, stepped in to regain control of the heavyweight championship, for it, and is now fighting to get it back again.

Everyone wanted a piece of the cake. Standards fell as challengers rather than future champions were rounded up by managers. People longed for the golden days of boxing, the 1970s, the age of Ali.

Ali was certainly the greatest but my favourite is Joe Louis. Even though past his best when I was at school, he was every schoolboy's hero.

It was a time when the country stayed up to listen to big fights on the radio. We would put pictures to the words of the commentators like Raymond Glendenning, Eamonn Andrews and Stewart MacPherson. Louis personified the romance of the times.



John L. Sullivan: last of the bareknucklers

GOLF

Spence enjoys rich taste of success after patient wait

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, SWITZERLAND

JAMIE Spence became delighted of Turnbridge Wells on Sunday when he won the European Masters here, a victory that brought him so many delights he might not have absorbed them all by Christmas.

The things to savour included his first win; a round of 60, the lowest of his — and most other people's — career; £93,859 in prize money; to take him to eighth place on the Volvo Order of Merit, with £236,145; 93,859 Ryder Cup points, and the knowledge that other people now know what he has always known: that he is a winner.

"I've great belief in myself," Spence, who at 29 should be on the verge of his golfing prime, said. "If you don't believe in yourself, nobody else will believe in you."

Spence, who started playing golf when he was 11, was never lower than one handicap as an amateur but he turned professional in 1985, aged 22, and had to go through the qualifying school five times. Having survived that soul-destroying experi-

ence, he has no doubts about his ability to handle the other end of things, and that includes the Ryder Cup.

"It's obviously a target," he said, "and it's well within my capabilities — and the capabilities of 30 others. I think every golfer is thinking of it but there's still a year to go."

He will have his first taste of international team competition when he plays for England in the Dunhill Cup next month at St Andrews, where he first came to notice with a 65 in the second round of the Open, in 1990, before finishing tied for 22nd.

Spence was a universally popular winner — strains of "there's only one Jamie Spence" emanated from the players' lounge — and had been tipped for a certain winner this season by the caddies, who are a pretty reliable guide to form.

"He's a great guy," Anders Forsbrand, who lost to Spence in a playoff after finishing with five straight birdies to the said generously. Mike Miller, the grizzled Scot who marked Spence's card, said: "It was a joy to watch

him. He's a new diamond."

Like anybody, Spence has his weaknesses. He is a fanatical Arsenal supporter. "Has he got a season ticket?" Sally Ann, his wife, was asked. "He's got everything," she sighed — and owns part of a racehorse called Pepper the Pin, which has yet to win over the jumps. However, his own success should sustain him through any disappointments throughout the football and racing seasons.

Almost more impressive than his 60 was how Spence coped with the play-off after two hours of watching play unfold on television. Up against Forsbrand, No. 2 in Europe this year, Spence revealed the sort of temperament that would come in very useful in the Ryder Cup at The Belfry next September.

Putting first on the 18th, the second hole of the play-off, he faced a 25-foot putt, straight uphill, reminding himself that he had been putting well all week, gave the ball a tonk and watched it hurtle into the hole. Even Forsbrand could not follow that.

"In these situations, you've got to give it a go," Spence said. "You can't leave it short. I've always been a fighter and aggressive." He sounds like just the sort of man Bernard Gallacher, Europe's Ryder Cup captain, will appreciate.

VOLVO ORDER OF MERIT: 1. N. Faldo (Eng), £465,219; 2. A. Forsbrand (Swe), £287,808; 3. J. A. Lomas (Eng), £227,126; 4. A. Johnston (Eng), £225,247; 5. G. Montgomery (Sct), £224,727; 6. S. Lange (Ger), £225,747; 7. V. Singh (Ind), £245,291; 8. J. Spence (Eng), £238,145; 9. J. Faldo (Sct), £213,221; 10. G. Brand (Sct), £203,895.

Open hospitality, page 15

Selectors prefer Dredge

BRADLEY Dredge, the Welsh teenager beaten in the final of the Amateur championship by Stephen Dundas on Saturday, has been chosen, ahead of Dundas, to represent Great Britain and Ireland in the Eisenhower Trophy, in Vancouver, Canada, from October 1 to 4 (A Special Correspondent writes).

Dredge, 19, from the Bryn

Meadows club near Newport, Gwent, will be accompanied by the world team championship by Matthew Stanford, of England, Dean Robertson, of Scotland, and Raymond Burns, from Ireland. Dundas is first reserve.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND TEAM: R. Burns (Scotland), S. Dundas (Ireland), M. Stanford (England), D. Robertson (Scotland), R. Burns (Scotland), S. Dundas (Ireland), M. Stanford (England), D. Robertson (Scotland).

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Thomas destroys Rams as Bills pile up points

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THURMAN Thomas scored four touchdowns on Sunday as the Buffalo Bills beat the Los Angeles Rams 40-7 on the opening day of the National Football League season. Thomas, who scored the first three touchdowns, gained 103 yards on 22 carries. He caught a ten-yard scoring pass from Jim Kelly and also scored on runs of one, six and six yards.

Kelly completed 13 of 19 passes for 106 yards before being replaced by Frank Reich in the second half. Kelly also hit Mitch Frerotte with a two-yard scoring pass in the second quarter on a tackle-eligible play. Buffalo intercepted the Los Angeles quarterback, Jim Everett, four times.

James Lofton, 36, of the Bills, needed 55 yards to surpass the retired Steve Largent and set the record for career receiving yardage. Lofton caught 56 yards' worth to increase his total to 13,091.

Herschel Walker, more or less left for dead after being discarded by Minnesota in the close season, appears to have found a home with the Philadelphia Eagles. He gained 114 yards and caught a two-yard pass from Randall Cunningham for the Eagles' first score in a 15-13 win over the New Orleans Saints.

John Elway drove the Den-

ver Broncos 35 yards in the final two minutes, closing with a one-yard scoring run by Reggie Rivers, in a 17-13 victory over the Los Angeles Raiders. The Broncos' other touchdown came on a 54-yard fumble return by Michael Brooks.

The full back, Tom Rathman, caught three scoring tosses and the linebacker, John Johnson, returned an interception 56 yards for a touchdown as the San Francisco 49ers defeated the New York Giants 31-14. The San Francisco quarterback, Steve Young, left the game with concussion and Steve Bono took over to complete 15 of 22 passes for 187 yards.

Jim Harbaugh, of the Chicago Bears, threw a six-yard scoring toss to Tom Waddle with one second left in a 27-24 win over the Detroit Lions, who had taken a 24-20 lead with just over a minute to play.

RESULTS: Buffalo 40, Los Angeles Rams 7; Chicago 27, Detroit 24; Pittsburgh 20, Houston 24; Philadelphia 15, New Orleans Saints 14; Atlanta 20, New York Jets 17; San Francisco 31, New York Giants 14; Minnesota 23, Green Bay Packers 10; Indianapolis 14, Cleveland 3; Kansas City 24, San Diego 10; Cincinnati 21, Seattle 3; Tampa Bay 23, Phoenix 7; Denver 17, Los Angeles Raiders 13.

FOOTNOTES: Week two Sunday: Atlanta at Washington, Buffalo at San Francisco; Chicago at New Orleans; Dallas at NY Giants; Green Bay at Tampa Bay; Houston at Indianapolis; LA Raiders at Cincinnati; Minnesota at Detroit; New England at LA Rams; NY Jets at Pittsburgh; San Diego at Denver; Seattle at Kansas City; Philadelphia at Phoenix; Monday: Miami at Cleveland.

POOLS FORECAST

Rovers can make capital

BLACKBURN Rovers have drawn on their two previous visits to London this season, against Crystal Palace and Chelsea. They can do the same against Arsenal. There was nothing to choose between the sides at Ewood Park three weeks ago when Blackburn won 1-0.

Ipswich Town are the draw specialists of the four main divisions, having finished level in six of their seven games. They can share the points again at home to Wimbledon. A 0-0 draw away to Everton and Saturday's home victory over Arsenal suggest that

Wimbledon are better than their league position indicates. Birmingham City v Millwall in the first division is a reverse fixture. For pools purposes, however, Birmingham are at home in a match which looks a likely score-draw.

For long-shot treble chance selections, Bristol City v Southend United in the first division, and Leyton Orient v Chester City in the second, are worth a gamble. Southend looked good in gaining their first points of the season on Saturday and Chester could be the first to hold Orient at Brisbane Road this season.

PREMIER LEAGUE
1 Arsenal v Blackburn (at Millwall)
2 Chelsea v Norwich
3 Everton v Oxford
4 Tottenham v Man Utd
5 Ipswich v Wimbledon
6 Man City v Middlesbrough
7 Man Utd v Sheffield Wed
8 Nottm Forest v Luton
9 Sheffield Wed v Liverpool
10 Southampton v QPR

Not on coupons: Leeds v Aston Villa (Sunday), Coventry v Tottenham (Monday)

FIRST DIVISION
1 Birmingham v Millwall (at Middlesbrough)
2 Charlton v Southampton
3 Charlton v Cambridge U
4 Oxford v Sunderland
5 Peterborough v West Ham
6 Swindon v Bristol R
7 Wrexham v Grimsby
8 Wrexham v Notts Co

Not on coupons: Barnsley v Derby, Brentford v Luton (Sunday), Newcastle v Wigan, Portsmouth, Leicester v Wolves (Monday)

SECOND DIVISION
1 Bolton v Notts Co
2 Leyton Orient v Chester City
3 Millwall v Middlesbrough
4 Notts Co v Sheffield Wed
5 Port Vale v Exeter
6 Rotherham v Doncaster
7 Rotherham v Bolton
8 Stockport v Hull
9 Swindon v Blackpool
10 West Brom v Reading

Not on coupons: Wigan v Huddersfield (Friday)

THIRD DIVISION
1 Bury v Barnet
2 Carlisle v York
3 Colchester v Watford
4 Gillingham v Chester
5 Gillingham v Chester
6 Lincoln v Halifax
7 Notts Co v Accrington
8 Notts Co v Torquay
9 Notts Co v Torquay
10 Wrexham v Shrewsbury

Not on coupons: Hereford v Cardiff (Sunday)

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Not on coupons: Leeds v Aston Villa (Sunday), Coventry v Tottenham (Monday)

FIRST DIVISION
1 Birmingham v Millwall (at Middlesbrough)
2 Charlton v Southampton
3 Charlton v Cambridge U
4 Oxford v Sunderland
5 Peterborough v West Ham
6 Swindon v Bristol R
7 Wrexham v Grimsby
8 Wrexham v Notts Co

Not on coupons: Barnsley v Derby, Brentford v Luton (Sunday), Newcastle v Wigan, Portsmouth, Leicester v Wolves (Monday)

SECOND DIVISION
1 Bolton v Notts Co
2 Leyton Orient v Chester City
3 Millwall v Middlesbrough
4 Notts Co v Sheffield Wed
5 Port Vale v Exeter
6 Rotherham v Doncaster
7 Rotherham v Bolton
8 Stockport v Hull
9 Swindon v Blackpool
10 West Brom v Reading

Not on coupons: Wigan v Huddersfield (Friday)

THIRD DIVISION
1 Bury v Barnet
2 Carlisle v York
3 Colchester v Watford
4 Gillingham v Chester
5 Gillingham v Chester
6 Lincoln v Halifax
7 Notts Co v Accrington
8 Notts Co v Torquay
9 Notts Co v Torquay
10 Wrexham v Shrewsbury

Not on coupons: Hereford v Cardiff (Sunday)

GM VALLEY HALL CONFERENCE
1 Birmingham v Welling
2 Kidderminster v Welling
3 Kidderminster v Welling
4 Kidderminster v Welling
5 Kidderminster v Welling
6 Kidderminster v Welling
7 Kidderminster v Welling
8 Kidderminster v Welling
9 Kidderminster v Welling
10 Kidderminster v Welling

Not on coupons: Kidderminster v Welling (Sunday)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE
1 Arsenal v Blackburn (at Millwall)
2 Chelsea v Norwich
3 Everton v Oxford
4 Tottenham v Man Utd
5 Ipswich v Wimbledon
6 Man City v Middlesbrough
7 Man Utd v Sheffield Wed
8 Nottm Forest v Luton
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FIRST DIVISION
1 Birmingham v Millwall (at Middles

Taylor checks Glamorgan revival

Kent team ignored by selectors is set for second place

By IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Glamorgan won toss; Kent, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 24 runs behind Glamorgan)

IN TIMES of recession, becoming runners-up in the county championship assumes a considerable significance. Britannic Assurance's prize is, after all, £23,000, and after two years of severe cut-backs, Kent are in need of such money as much as any supposedly less-fashionable county. Through bowling Glamorgan out for 158, they are that much closer to gaining it.

They chose for their last match at Canterbury to play on a part of the square that was raised three years ago and has not been used since. It is, in cricketing parlance, a "result" pitch. A fourth day is not likely to be needed. A draw, of course, is not the slightest use to Kent.

In the morning, there were some dark mutterings from their captain and coach over the selection of the two England parties. They felt they should have had a player or three included, although in the case of McCague, self-interest would have come into it.

If chosen by Australia this

winter or for their tour here next summer, he will not play for Kent again. Although born in Northern Ireland, he will then be classified as an overseas player. Loathe though Kent will be to lose the bowler who had them contesting the championship last month, they already have Hooper returning in 1993.

Neither, for that matter, did Glamorgan have a single player in either party. Morris (1,564 runs at an average of 48) had plenty of cause to look glum, as he did after dragging on a wide one early in the innings, but he has a wonderfully cheerful countenance. His was one of five wickets taken by Iggesden, who must also be wondering whether his time at Test level has gone.

The ball swung around in the morning and Glamorgan's seamers had it moving off the pitch in the afternoon. These were just the conditions for Barwick, who was tantalisingly short of a length. There was also some weariness about much of the batting.

Even Richards lacked his swagger of old, although to what extent this was to do with averaging 27 the season was hard to ascertain. His wicket, though, will always be prized.

Fleming bowled him through the gate and gave full expression to his feelings. Glamorgan were then 62 for four and surpassed their lowest score of the season only through Metson farming the strike.

Otherwise, only Dale and Cottey made runs. It was no different when Kent batted, not at any rate until Taylor and Marsh came together. Ward was beaten by one that Thomas, Glamorgan's 17-year-old from Llanelli, cut back at him and Benson was taken at the wicket through failing to counter excessive bounce.

The next three batsmen went for ducks. Hooper was struck on a foot by Watkins and Barwick had Cowdrey and Fleming taken at short leg by James, prodding forward in each case. One lasted half an hour, the other one ball. At 55 for five Kent's innings promised no riches, literal or metaphorical.

In such circumstances there can be few more reliable batsmen than Taylor. Accumulating with stealth all around the wicket, he reached the first half-century of the day and, ably assisted by Marsh, enabled Kent to finish the day with a first-innings lead in sight.



Fleming follows through: the Kent all-rounder in action at Canterbury, where he bowled Richards for four

Gooch finds no rest as Essex falter

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

THE championship won, the winter tour parties picked, Graham Gooch must have been hoping for a relaxed time in Essex's final two games of the season. No such luck.

He did hand over the captaincy to Paul Prichard and drop himself down the order to No. 6 against Derbyshire at Derby yesterday, but had no chance no time to put his feet up. With Ian Bishop, the West Indian fast bowler, on the rampage, Gooch was at the crease with Essex 21 for four and it was only his sturdy innings of 53 that prevented a complete rout of the champions.

As it was, they were bowled out for 96, Bishop taking six for 18 in 11 overs, and thus trailed by 130 on first innings. Derbyshire, keen to improve on last season's third place, had earlier collapsed from 152 for three, with Derek Pringle taking five for 63, his best of the season.

Alan Wells and Neil Lennan came close to a new Sussex third-wicket record at Old Trafford. Lennan, on 136, fell to a juggled catch at square leg when they had put on 263, 25 short of the Ranjitsinhji-Killick partnership, also against Lancashire, at Hove in 1901. With Sussex 331 for three, Wells is 135 not out, his fifth century of the season.

Durham conceded centuries to Hayhurst and Harden as Somerset piled up 398 for five at Taunton, where Ian Botham managed only 11 overs before retiring from the fray with a shoulder injury.

Lathwell and Such selected for England A tour party

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

KEITH Fletcher, the new England team manager, knew he would be in calmer waters when it came to explaining the A team tour party and his description of it as "exciting" will perhaps find argument only in Sussex and Glamorgan. There were so many realistic contenders for the 15 places that discussion was considerably longer than that on the senior party.

At the end of it, Martin Moxon was named as captain and one of three experienced full caps, the others being his vice-captain, Jack Russell, and David Capel, winning a recall to the international scene after three years' absence. Capel is one of five seam bowlers, a list which does not include Martin McCague, of Kent, who is dual-qualified.

Ramprakash and Hussain

may be paying a penalty for disciplinary problems, but those with reason for grievance include the Sussex pair, Alan Wells and Martin Speight. Wells would have been a worthy choice among those relieved from suspension while Speight will now spend the winter in his other guise, as an artist. He has been left out in favour of Paul Prichard, a latecomer to the England scene, and Graham Thorpe, who will be making his fourth A team tour.

Down in Wales, the old suspicions of metropolitan bias will inevitably be revived. Glamorgan had four strong candidates in Hugh Morris, who captained the A tour last winter and has had a marvellous season, Colin Metson, next to Russell the best wicketkeeper in the country,

the all-rounder, Adrian Dale, and Robert Croft, whose off spin has developed so well since touring last year.

None of them have made the party. Russell will be the only wicketkeeper, although Hegg, of Lancashire, is on standby, and Peter Such, of Essex, wins Croft's place as the off spinner.

There is cause for delight, however, in the inclusion of Somerset's gifted opening batsman, Mark Lathwell, at 20 the youngest member of a party for a trip which starts on January 26 and will focus on the eastern states of Australia. Squad: M D Moxon (Yorkshire, captain), R C Russell (Gloucestershire, vice-captain), M N Lathwell (Somerset), M A Roseberry (Middlesex), T C Middleton (Hampshire), G P Thorpe (Sussex), G D Lloyd (Lancashire), P J Richards (Essex), J Capel (Northamptonshire), I D K Salisbury (Sussex), P M Such (Essex), D G Cook (Derbyshire), D J Mills (Lancashire), A R Coddick (Somerset), M C Croft (Essex).

FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

England batting and fielding									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Average	100	50	Catches
N H Fairbrother	10	15	7	652	166*	67.25	1	5	5
M W Gelling	22	32	5	165	170	69.00	6	9	16
G A Gooch	18	25	5	165	180	67.17	8	5	18
G A Hirst	17	27	2	137	213	53.46	4	5	32
D A Houghton	18	25	5	165	180	67.17	8	5	18
S J Bailey	20	30	5	1014	253	48.28	2	2	2
M A Atherton	20	30	5	1348	140	48.07	4	7	2
P W Jones	14	12	4	336	30	44.50	2	2	2
C G Lewis	17	29	10	124	120	40.00	3	3	3
C G Lewis	15	22	3	142	134	39.05	2	4	12
R A Smith	16	26	3	159	127	37.34	2	4	11
P R Tufnell	10	13	10	128	31	38.07	2	2	2
A J Stewart	17	29	3	1041	190	40.00	2	2	2
R A Smith	17	29	3	1041	190	40.00	2	2	2
R A Smith	17	29	3	1041	190	40.00	2	2	2
R A Smith	17	29	3	1041	190	40.00	2	2	2
P A J DeFreitas	11	11	1	233	72	28.90	1	1	1
J P Taylor	22	19	4	128	74	17.09	1	1	1
J P Taylor	22	19	4	128	74	17.09	1	1	1
J P Taylor	22	19	4	128	74	17.09	1	1	1
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Sánchez family enjoys a Labor Day outing at Flushing Meadow

Graf makes quick work of Labat

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

WHILE New York celebrated the Labor Day holiday in appropriate style yesterday, the morning shift at Flushing Meadow had clocked off well before midday. Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario were clearly set on having a free afternoon, finishing their US Open fourth-round matches in 48 and 44 minutes, respectively, and losing just five games between them.

The pair will now meet in the quarter-final, a case of irresistible force and immovable object on yesterday's form, though Graf leads their series 15-2 and has won their five encounters this year.

Predictably, Graf, the No. 2 seed, was too powerful for the former world junior champion, Florentia Labat of Argentina. Labat, ranked 59, won two games in each set, which was about par for the course. By the time Jim Courier and John McEnroe had taken to the court, Graf was putting

her feet up back in her plush new apartment in New York. More surprisingly, Zina Garrison, the No. 14 seed, disintegrated against the Spaniard, the statistics of her demise flashing by like telegraph poles from an express train. The American won 11 points in the first set, eight in the second, and won her one and only game after 38 minutes. It was not quite the advertisement of the heads of the women's game were looking for, particularly after the encouraging signs of competitiveness in the opening week.

Ever the perfectionist, ever setting herself new standards, as much to maintain her own interest in the game, I suspect, Graf was critical of her inconsistency. "That is a problem I am getting more critical and starting to get upset with my game really quickly. I want to play better than I am. Consistency will be important against Arantxa because she does not give away any points."

A shoulder injury, more nagging than terminal, and a day-court season extended through the Federation Cup and the Olympics has not been ideal preparation for the US Open. But Sánchez Vicario, who has shouldered an enormous workload in singles and doubles this year, could voice the same complaint, and there was no sign of fatigue as she merrily outlasted Garrison.

"You change from grass, then on to clay and grass, then on to clay and grass, then on to clay and grass. It is not easy," Graf said. "You just don't have any time to rest." Certainly, Monica Seles and Gabriela Sabatini, who rested for much of the summer, playing neither in Barcelona nor Frankfurt, should be fresher when the serious business starts in the quarter-finals.

For Marisa Sánchez Vicario, her daughter's easy victory provided considerable relief after the emotional torment of watching her two sons play each other the previous day. She had lasted just a set before retreating to the sanctuary of the players' lounge. It was the third time, and the



Return with interest: Sánchez Vicario during her victory over Garrison

first for 57 years, that brothers had played each other at the US national championships. Emilio, who had won the previous seven meetings, recovered from 2-1 down to assert his seniority over Javier in five sets. "It makes my life so difficult," Emilio said. "At other times, it was like he was playing his older brother."

Now he treats me like a normal player." Victorics came equally hard for Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl, who now square up to each other in the last 16. Both dropped sets. Becker to Davis Cup colleague Carl-Uwe Steeb, Lendl to Chuck Adams, a brash young Californian. Adams even had the cheek

to lecture the three-times champion on the finer arts of the game, suggesting that the No. 9 seed was not hitting the ball as hard as he once did. Nor will Lendl be cheered by Steeb's assessment of his next opponent. "I think he's going to reach the top of his game soon. He was hitting the ball harder than last week."

PARALYMPIC GAMES: DISGRACED HUNGARIAN SHOT PUTTER STRIPPED OF SILVER

Medal-winner banned after failing drugs test

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN BARCELONA

THE Paralympic Games had to deal with its first case of drug abuse yesterday when the Hungarian shot putter, Denes Nagy, was stripped of his silver medal and banned from further competition.

All three medal-winners in the B3 class were tested, but Nagy's sample was the only one to show traces of the anabolic steroid, methan-

dione, the drug that ended Jason Livingston's Olympic hopes.

This is the first time the Paralympics have carried out comprehensive drug controls and Nagy has the dubious honour of being the first athlete to be banned in this way.

The president of the International Coordinating Committee, Guillermo Cabezas, was at pains to point out that Nagy would be treated in the

same way as any able-bodied athlete and will be banned from international competition for four years.

The Paralympic athletes have the same list of prohibited substances as the able-bodied, with certain exceptions. If an athlete is on medication that cannot be replaced by a legal drug he may be allowed to compete, after an examination by the medical committee. But for Nagy there was no

such allowance. Having admitted taking the steroids, he will fly home to Budapest tomorrow.

The British team, however, steered clear of the controversy and got on with the business of winning. William McQueen won Britain's ninth gold medal in the swimming pool, reinforcing the team's position as the best in the world. McQueen, racing in the 50 metres freestyle S5 class, was

favourite for the medal, lining up as the world record-holder. After cruising through the heats in the morning he announced his intention to all who cared to listen of winning in style yesterday evening. That he did by setting a new Paralympic record of 39.96sec.

Earlier, Deanna Cotes won Britain's first shooting gold in the standing air rifle mixed division. Her score of 100.2 set a Games record.

FOOTBALL

Scots' leading man relishes chance to reprise Swiss role

FROM RODDY FORSYTH IN SOLOTHURN, SWITZERLAND

ON THE principle that a good beginning makes a good end Andy Roxburgh has been candid about his expectation of Scotland's opening World Cup qualifying tie against Switzerland in Bern tomorrow night. "I certainly believe that we can take a point out of this match and, frankly, if our approach is right — if we play as we did against the CIS in the European championship in Sweden — then I think we can beat Switzerland," the Scotland coach said yesterday.

"This is probably the time of year which suits Scotland best. The players not only feel fresh, they are keen to build on their good work in Sweden and I feel we are in for a lively game if for no other reason than that whenever Scotland and Switzerland meet there are always goals."

With this remark Roxburgh touched on a point of controversy between him and Switzerland's English coach, Roy Hodgson, who has disparaged McCoist, the leading goalscorer in the Scottish party, and suggested that the Rangers forward's failure to score in Sweden was an indication that he is short of class.

Roxburgh's retort was to say: "I am really amazed how helpful Swiss managers have been to us. Last year when we were 2-0 down at half time in our European championship qualifying match in Bern, Ole Stenlike warned his players how dangerous we could be when we were down and I am sure his words were ringing in their ears when we came storming back into the game."

"This time Roy Hodgson has saved me having to motivate one of our key players, as for Ally's record, the facts speak for themselves." McCoist, inevitably, had a

sharp rejoinder of his own to make. "Switzerland? Oh, yes. I scored against them in their own stadium last year, didn't I? I did miss a penalty when we played them in Glasgow, though, so maybe that's what Roy Hodgson is thinking about."

McCoist will be offered the chance to make his point in a more active fashion tomorrow night because barring any mishap in training he will start the match. The identity of his partner remains in doubt because Roxburgh has still to decide whether to field Durie, who also scored against the Swiss in Bern, or Gallacher, whose pace could be an important asset.

Dave Phillips will try to upstage his more famous compatriots, Ian Rush, Mark Hughes and Dean Saunders and shoot Wales to victory over the Faeroe Islands in their World Cup qualifier in Cardiff tomorrow.

Phillips, who will be winning his fortieth cap, has helped Norwich to the top of the Premier League with four goals in six games but has found the net only once during an international career that began in 1984.

Kingsley Black, who seems likely soon to leave his club, Nottingham Forest, has been put under further pressure by Billy Bingham, the Northern Ireland manager, before their World Cup qualifier against Albania at Windsor Park tomorrow. Bingham wants Black to forget his club frustrations and find his form for his country. Ray Houghton will miss the Republic of Ireland's World Cup match against Latvia at Lansdowne Road tomorrow. The Aston player sustained an ankle injury on Saturday.

Taylor denies claim of steroid problem

GORDON Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), yesterday denied claims that anabolic steroid abuse is a serious problem in English football (Louise Taylor writes).

That was the suggestion of the makers of a television programme screened on BBC2 last night, *Standing Room Only*. The programme produced evidence from a fitness consultant in the north of England, who said he had enquiries from several players wanting advice on the use of undetectable steroids.

But Taylor said: "There has been drug testing in football since 1978 and it has failed to produce any positives, other than where players have been taking cold, asthma or slimming remedies." Last season the PFA advised

its members not to co-operate with "random" drug testing because its members had not been given any information about the new procedures laid down by the International Olympic Committee.

Taylor said that this season all clubs will co-operate after having had the chance to attend a seminar on drug testing. But he is concerned that players have not been given enough information.

Vinny Jones is expected to finalise his return to Wimbledon today in a £700,000 transfer from Chelsea. They will reinvest the money in a central defender after learning that injury will keep Paul Elliott out for a year.

Paul Mardon, the Birmingham City centre half, has joined Liverpool on trial with a view to a £1 million move.

O'Sullivan adds White to his hit list

Ronnie O'Sullivan, arguably the most naturally talented 16-year-old snooker player to emerge since Jimmy White, enhanced his already considerable reputation with a 5-1 win over White himself in the third round of the European Open in Blackpool yesterday.

O'Sullivan needed only 51 minutes to reach the last 32 of a world ranking event for the second time, having progressed to the corresponding stage of the Regal Welsh Open by beating Eddie Charlton, the Australian veteran, 5-1 on Sunday.

Rolling on

Bowls: Tony Allcock, the world singles champion, and Andrew Willis, who shared in an EBA triples success in 1990, twice came from behind to beat Tony Harley and Roy Chamberlain, from Christchurch, Wiscob in the second round of the EBA pairs championship at Worthing yesterday.

They meet Tommy Armstrong and David Holt, the 1987 champions, from Bolton, in the third round this morning.

Out in force

Hockey: Jane Sixsmith is one of nine Great Britain Olympic bronze medal-winners named in the England squad to take on the Barcelona champions, Spain, in the Typhoo Tea Cup at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, on October 3.

SQUAD: J. Adams (Bristol); J. Bayles, S. Smith, M. Davies, J. Sixsmith, C. Smith, A. Clifton and K. Johnson (Leicester); C. Allen and F. Lee (Highgate); V. Dwyer, S. Lister (Leeds); J. Miller (Carlisle); L. Youngs (Newcastle); J. Smith (Chesham).

□ Scotland yesterday qualified for the semi-finals of the Inter-Nations Cup in Singapore by beating Belgium 3-0. It was their fourth successive victory.

Weather-beaten

Cycling: Gethin Butler, the national champion, coped with the rain that soaked him for most of his ride in the Poole Wheelers 12-hour time trial during his bid to take over the lead in the season-long British best all-rounder competition, but finished six miles short of the distance he needed to oust Kevin Dawson as leader of the competition.

Northern hopes

Rugby league: Bradford Northern are hoping this week to finally sign Deryck Fox, Featherstone Rovers' first-class Great Britain scrum half, after his rejection of a £130,000 move to Hull, despite an agreement reached by the clubs.

Together again

Badminton: Gill Clark and Gillian Gowers, England's most successful players, have agreed to renew the partnership which surprisingly split 18 months ago.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

WHITINGHAM: Home countries under-23 international (Middlesbrough) results: 1. 3,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 2. 5,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 3. 10,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 4. 15,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 5. 20,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 6. 25,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 7. 30,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 8. 35,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 9. 40,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 10. 45,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 11. 50,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 12. 55,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 13. 60,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 14. 65,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 15. 70,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 16. 75,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 17. 80,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 18. 85,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 19. 90,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 20. 95,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 21. 100,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 22. 105,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 23. 110,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 24. 115,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 25. 120,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 26. 125,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 27. 130,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 28. 135,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 29. 140,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 30. 145,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 31. 150,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 32. 155,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 33. 160,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 34. 165,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 35. 170,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 36. 175,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 37. 180,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 38. 185,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 39. 190,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 40. 195,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 41. 200,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 42. 205,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 43. 210,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 44. 215,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 45. 220,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 46. 225,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 47. 230,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 48. 235,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 49. 240,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 50. 245,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 51. 250,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 52. 255,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 53. 260,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 54. 265,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 55. 270,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 56. 275,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 57. 280,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 58. 285,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 59. 290,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 60. 295,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 61. 300,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 62. 305,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 63. 310,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 64. 315,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 65. 320,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 66. 325,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 67. 330,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 68. 335,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 69. 340,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 70. 345,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 71. 350,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 72. 355,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 73. 360,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 74. 365,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 75. 370,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 76. 375,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 77. 380,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 78. 385,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 79. 390,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 80. 395,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 81. 400,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 82. 405,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 83. 410,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 84. 415,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 85. 420,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 86. 425,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 87. 430,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m 11s; 88. 435,000m wheelchair: S. 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David, 37m 11s; 241. 1,200,000m wheelchair: S. David, 37m

New regime falls into old routine of rejecting England's most popular cricketer

Bitter Gower is left in the cold

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Gower discovered yesterday that one England manager is just as capable of the sins of omission as another. Micky Stewart, his old *bête noir*, may have stood aside for Keith Fletcher but the ambivalence to Gower's charm, flair and record is as strong as ever and he is to miss the tour of India and Sri Lanka in the new year.

It is the third time in four overseas tours that the most popular cricketer in England has been left out, this time on the particularly slim grounds of age. Fletcher, not bothering to disguise his own influence on the decision, said: "The thing which concerned me about David was that it would give us three batsmen in their late 30s. I would not want England to lose three established players at a similar time."

It is a reasoning which will find as little favour with the general public as it does with Gower himself. Last night, his reaction was justifiably bitter. "I would have hoped the team would be selected on quality and experience," he said. "But it seems these things are not important any more."

So, after his comeback 73 and his steady, match-winning innings at Headingley, did most people in England. In a

five-hour meeting, however, the selectors once more chose to differ and it was left to Graham Gooch, whose own support for Gower was overwhelmed, to telephone him with the news shortly before the party was announced.

"To say I'm disappointed is an understatement," Gower said. "I thought the longer I heard nothing the better it would be for me. Graham came up with the news later than I had expected. I thought I had done enough."

But by then, Gower must have assumed the worst, having been featured in one of the most shameful cases of a leaked international team the Test and County Cricket Board can have presided over. For the sake of the players concerned and the image of the game in general, never again should it select a side and then wait three days to make it public.

Gower is the senior batsman abandoned to find room for Mike Gatting, one of two players who predictably return after the contentious early lifting of their international bans. Far from predictable, however, was a third reprimanded "rebel", Paul Jarvis, who joins Gatting and John Emburey. If Gower is the unluckiest cricketer in the country today, Jarvis must comfortably be the most fortunate.

I doubt if England can ever before have chosen, as prospective strike bowler, someone who last took five wickets in an innings three years ago and who has subsequently been dropped by his county for disciplinary reasons, unsuccessfully sought his release and spent as much time injured as fit.

Jarvis's six previous Tests left him with a bowling average of 50.57 and Ted Dexter's description of this choice as "a flier" barely does it justice. Indeed, when BBC radio introduced an interview with Jarvis and only silence followed, it seemed the player himself was speechless.

Vying with Gower for sympathy yesterday was Jack Russell, yet again shamefully sacrificed for the shortcomings of others. Fletcher confessed that the selectors felt it impossible to include a specialist wicketkeeper when nobody else was capable of doing the all-rounder's job.

So Alec Stewart, greatly against his will, must keep wicket and drop down the batting order, while Russell, extraordinarily, is even passed over in favour of Richard



Back in the fold: a happy Gatting reflects upon his England recall at a deserted Lord's yesterday

Even Yorkshiremen left stunned by selections

By PETER BALL

SELECTIONS are never universally approved, with county bias often to be seen. But while the selection of Richard Blakey as the second wicketkeeper is likely to provoke a response in Gloucestershire, Glamorgan and possibly Lancashire, the selection of Paul Jarvis may raise a few eyebrows even in Yorkshire.

Jarvis had never really lived up to his potential as the most promising of his generation of England fast bowlers, possibly suffering from being overworked in his youth with his county. But since his decision to take the South African money in 1989 "to pay the mortgage", his career had gone backwards.

Even Jarvis was surprised to be the third reprimanded rebel, a rotator hired for use on his new garden yesterday still

sitting unused at tea-time as he fielded the demands of press and television. "I didn't get the wickets I felt I needed this season," he said. "I wasn't getting the fives and sixes in an innings."

Jarvis has not taken five wickets in an innings since the abortive South African tour as injury and doubts about his attitude affected his play. In 1990, after finishing a troubled season with a disappointing 37 wickets at an average of 37.64, he asked to leave Yorkshire, but was persuaded to see out the remaining year of his contract.

It was even more unrewarding. After three games he damaged a hamstring and did not play again until the last match of the season, the longest hamstring injury in the history of professional

sport. Again his future with Yorkshire came into question, especially when Jarvis's hamstring injury occurred after his first game. In the end, after a further setback he returned against Leicestershire at Sheffield in July, taking four for 32. In all he has taken 36 wickets at an average of 29.38.

"A lot of things have happened since I went to South Africa," Jarvis said. "I think I've matured more as a person and a player. I've realised that cricket is what I want to do for Yorkshire and England, and I've really enjoyed playing the last two months."

There has never been any question about Richard Blakey enjoying playing. Nor will there now be about the value of a team tour, for the player made a favourable impression on the England management as both touring team member and player on the tours to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka under Fletcher.

"Obviously they are looking for 'keepers to be able to bat," Blakey said yesterday, but after beginning as an outstanding batting prospect who occasionally kept wicket, his batting had gone backwards. In the past two years after he replaced Bairstow as the Yorkshire wicketkeeper, Blakey averaged under 30 and did not reach 1,000 runs in 1990 or 1991.

This season he has begun to recover, with 1,014 runs so far at an average of 48.28. He has also claimed 48 victims behind the stumps, and although even his best friends would not claim he is a Russell or Metson, as great a humbug as Alan Knott has insisted on his ability behind the stumps.



India bound: Jarvis (top) and Blakey celebrate

McLaren team brings in Andretti

By NORMAN HOWELL

RON Dennis, the owner of McLaren, sprung a surprise on Formula One motor racing yesterday when Michael Andretti was announced as replacement next season for Gerhard Berger, who has left for Ferrari.

Andretti, 30, the Indy car champion, follows his father, Mario, into grand prix racing. His move makes available a seat at the Newman-Haas team and Mario Andretti, who is still driving for the team, said yesterday that the identity of his partner for

1993 would surprise everyone. This could be Nigel Mansell, the Formula One world champion, who according to Carl Haas, part-owner of the Indy car team, a year ago had made himself available. "And money was no problem," Haas recalled.

Ironically, it is money that separates Mansell and Frank Williams in their negotiations for next season. The two seem further apart and, in an attempt to break the deadlock, it appears Mansell has asked for help from Renault. But the continuing attempts of Ayrton

Senna to secure a drive for Williams remain a problem. Mario Andretti drove in Formula One from 1968 to 1982 and won a world championship with Lotus in 1978. It is an interesting move for McLaren as on both occasions that Andretti's son tested last year he failed.

But he is a winner — 26 Indy wins — as well as being keen to make his mark in Formula One. At the Canadian grand prix this year, Andretti and his father spent time at the McLaren motor home.

The signing of Andretti is

part of a long-term campaign by Dennis to reduce costs. Berger had to go because he asked for too much, while Senna is being made to sweat over his contract. Andretti has a one-year deal, plus the option of another year, and he will have come for less than Berger this year.

The presence of Dennis in the United States has led people to question whether he was not also looking for an engine, as it seems more likely that Honda will leave McLaren. A formal announcement is due this weekend at the Italian grand prix.

Anger as clubs call time on £13m deal

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THERE is to be no FA Carling Premier League. That was decided yesterday when a meeting of Premier League club chairmen at a London hotel ended with Ron Noades, of Crystal Palace, leading a 14-man walkout.

Noades led the revolt after eight clubs voted against accepting a proposed £13 million, three-year sponsorship with Bass, the brewers which own the Carling label, because they felt it might conflict with their own individual sponsorships. Liverpool, for example, have a deal with Carlsberg, which was understood to be keen to renegotiate had Bass become involved in the Premier League.

A two-thirds majority — 15 votes — was needed to approve the deal, but at the last minute Queens Park Rangers changed sides and joined Leeds United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United, Everton, Nottingham Forest and Aston Villa in rejecting it.

Noades's 14, who had all voted in favour of the Bass deal, felt that the eight had banded together to block the sponsorship against the interests of the FA Premier League as a whole. Brian Richardson, the Coventry chairman, who applauded Noades, said: "Not having the Bass sponsorship will cost Coventry around £350,000 a year. That represents one player that we cannot now afford to buy."

Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, said: "The fear of those who walked out was that the voting system has become a sham because eight clubs can get together and block decisions. I don't see any prospect of the Bass deal being revived. The clubs also rejected a centralised approach to other sponsors because of their own deals. We have a major rift. I am going to have to do some hard work

over the next few days to put it all back together again."

The Premier League rule book is intended to promote democracy, but Parry said: "The whole concept of one-club one-vote is proving unworkable. We have to devise a different way of operating. If there are block votes whenever issues are raised, we are not going to be able to take decisions. Walking out of meetings is not the answer. We have hit a brick wall with something of a thud."

Today, Parry will meet Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, who had misgivings about the Bass sponsorship, when he returns from Spain. Parry said: "The game will go on but discussions are needed within the next 24 hours. It is not realistic to let things remain in a vacuum for four days with the Premier League unable to take decisions."

Richardson, of Coventry, was optimistic that something could be salvaged with Bass. "There is nothing to stop 14 clubs forming individual deals with Bass. That would give them sponsorship of two-thirds of the league, and exposure from around 80 televised games."

A Bass spokesperson said: "We believe an excellent opportunity has been missed." Resistance to the Bass sponsorship was heightened when, last month, the original rebel seven signed an agreement, involving reviving advertising hoardings, with Dorna, a Swedish company. Speculation last night suggested that Queens Park Rangers had joined the so-called platinum seven sponsored by Dorna.

Sir John Quinlan, the Premier League chairman, yesterday confirmed that the "platinum seven" had not acted unconstitutionally in arranging their own perimeter advertising agreement.

England cap helps Ince's recovery

FROM STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN SANTANDER, SPAIN

GRAHAM Taylor has discovered a method of enticing players, who are supposedly less than fit, to join an England squad. More persuasive than any legislation yet invented by the Football Association, it is called "rule one" and was used in the strange case of Paul Ince.

The story started to unfold on Sunday morning. Once Tony Adams had been withdrawn, Manchester United were informed that Gary Pallister would be required as his replacement for the international against Spain here tomorrow night.

United pointed out that several of their players, including Pallister and Ince, were suffering from a virus. Lawrie McMenemy, Taylor's assistant, was asked to check on their availability after the television match against Leeds United at Old Trafford.

When he did so, he found out not only that Ince was "out on his feet" but that David Batty, one of only three remaining midfield players in the party, would also be unable to travel. As had been feared, he had aggravated a troublesome ankle injury.

It was then, Taylor said yesterday, that "rule one" was applied. Alex Ferguson was asked to tell Ince, initially chosen on standby, that he was going "to play against Spain" and "wouldn't be trained". In the words of the Manchester United manager, that "had a certain attraction and he was prepared to give it a try."

Instead of retiring to bed for three days, Ince reported for the flight from Luton yesterday.



Ince: took the bait

day morning. By contrast, two members of the under-21 squad who had travelled down from Liverpool were summarily sent back in a chauffeur-driven car. Harkness and McManaman, after being examined by the England doctor, were considered insufficiently fit to be selected for tonight's game in Burgos.

"It has been a classic England manager's weekend," Taylor said. "On the end of a telephone." Apart from Adams and Batty, Wallace was also ruled out. Jones, Wright and Steven had been withdrawn earlier.

Taylor has no misgivings about promoting Ince, who admits that he has regularly been pulled out of England squads in the past. He insists that fate rather than his own indecision has on each occasion been the legitimate cause.

He was in contention for a place in the European championship squad, for example, until he damaged an ankle in April. "It is not a case of me not wanting to play for England," he stressed. Now, at the age of 24, he relishes the prospect of making his first senior appearance.

"Having watched him on television against Leeds, I think I'll give him another dose of that virus," Taylor said. "It was a very good performance and the pleasing thing was that, although it was a very competitive game and he was up against Batty, he played with a smile on his face."

White, Manchester City's prolific winger, promises to be another new boy in the line-up to be announced today.

Among the more experienced representatives will be Platt and Walker, who travelled with Gascoigne and landed up the coast in Bilbao before joining their colleagues.

EWALD (photograph): C. Woods, I. Owen, D. Walker, M. Wright, S. Pearce, D. White, D. Platt, P. Ince, G. Palmer or A. Dixon, B. Davies, A. Shearer.
Stephen Froggatt, the Aston Villa midfielder player, who is qualified to play for the Republic of Ireland, has opted for England and will make his debut for the under-21 team tonight after originally withdrawing from the party.

Scotland ready, page 29
Fans turned back, page 14

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